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FLYING SOLO

Taylor Swift, nominated in best international female solo artist category, performs at the Brit Awards Wednesday in London. Although the Rolling Stones and Bruce Springsteen were nominees, it was a night for modern artists. Among the big winners: Mumford & Sons for best live act, Lana Del Rey — who beat both Rihanna and Swift — for international female solo artist, and the Black Keys for best international group. For a photo gallery and the story of Brit Awards winners, go to metronews.ca/scene. MATT KENT/GETTY IMAGES

No bigger fish to fry in T.O.?

That's what a city councillor is wondering after graffiti inspectors target a mural of fishies painted by her kids PAGE 6

Mom recalls happier times

Adoptive mother of Ashley Smith, a teenager who died in a Kitchener jail cell, tells court how it used to be PAGE 8

Book based on Bieber — kinda

Author of The Love Song of Jonny Valentine watched a lot of YouTube videos of Justin Bieber as research. Lucky! PAGE 27

'It's kids killing kids' in Toronto

Seized guns. Taking illegal weapons from teenagers is 'fairly typical,' says a police superintendent

In the 47 days before 15-year-old Jarvis Montaque was fatally shot outside his home off Jamestown Crescent in Rexdale, 17 guns were recovered from that corner of the city alone — mainly taken from the hands of teenagers.

Of four seizures released publicly by police city-wide, three were connected to teenagers — in one case, a group of four was arrested after a revolver came to school in a backpack in January.

On top of ongoing concerns about guns in the hands of youth, police are highlighting a worrying trend of "community guns," which are shared firearms used to commit multiple crimes.

Supt. Ron Taverner, unit commander for 23 Division in northwest Toronto, where Montaque was killed, said many of the guns recovered are linked to people younger than 20.

"Young people make up the majority of the people (from whom) these seizures have taken place," Taverner said. "I would say it's fairly typical.

"It's kids killing kids, really."

The number of guns already taken off the street so far this year is encouraging, Taverner said, in view of the recent spate of youthful deaths. "I would say that that's a fairly significant, fairly high number in relation to previous years," he said of the seizures.

After the shooting deaths of Tyson Bailey, 15; Kesean Williams, 9; and St. Aubyn Rodney, 15; Jarvis Montaque, also 15, on Sunday night became the fourth boy younger than 16 gunned down in the GTA in the past four weeks.

On Wednesday evening, the Jamaican Canadian Association held a candlelight vigil at the Elmbank Community Centre, at Finch Avenue West and Martingrove Road, in honour of Montaque.

Of the weapons seized in his division, Taverner said the majority were handguns, some picked up in groups.

Taverner said there are unique social issues in his division. Violence occurs in pockets around community-housing complexes like the one on Jamestown Crescent where Montaque lived with his family. Police said he was shot with a semi-automatic pistol.

"We've taken a lot of steps to try and deal with the issues," Taverner said. Recent statistics showing overall shooting incidents down more than 50 per cent across the city from this time last year also apply to the neighbourhoods his officers patrol.

"We're not different in the fact that there's been a huge reduction in gun-related offences," he said. "It seems to me that we are making an impact." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gun in backpack

Police don't release information on each weapon seized in the city, but investigators provide such information as part of a public arrest report or update.

- What has been released on gun seizures so far this year is only a snapshot of a bigger picture, but it highlights a fear that deadly weapons are more often being carried by kids.
- One of those seizures included four teenagers, one of them a girl, who were arrested after a loaded .357 revolver was brought to Blessed Mother Teresa High School in a backpack on Jan. 16.

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City hall. Council puts off shelter debate

Adam Vaughan says Toronto's shelter situation is a "crisis." BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It wasn't a great meeting for Toronto city council's left wing.

First, left-leaning councillors failed to get council to discuss a winter crisis in homeless shelters. After that, the Rob Ford administration defeated a bid to put some left-leaning councillors on the executive and budget committees.

Ford loyalist Vince Crisanti joins the 13-member executive, replacing Coun. Mike Del Grande, who resigned last month. Coun. Frances Nunziata takes the budget spot vacated by Frank Di Giorgio, who has been promoted to budget chief.

A report on the shelter issue goes to a committee next month. But Coun. Adam Vaughan said the situation is a "crisis" that demands immediate discussion — a position shared by Ontario Coalition Against Poverty supporters who attended Wednesday's meeting. Council voted 24-20 in favour of holding the debate immediately, but the motion needed 30 votes to pass.

Three shouting OCAP supporters then interrupted the meeting, forcing a lunch break. "Shame on this council," one woman yelled from the public gallery. "You have blood on your hands," she said, referring to a recent spate of homeless deaths in the midst of bitter weather. Seven have died so far this year, says street pastor Doug Johnson Hatlem, who keeps statistics for the Toronto Homeless Memorial Network. The network has counted 700 such deaths since 1985.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brazen café hit plotted from prison: Police

Ice cream parlour shooting. Friends of victim John Raposo charged with his murder

A bodybuilder with ties to the Niagara Hells Angels plotted a daytime murder at a Little Italy ice cream parlour while in prison on drug trafficking charges, police allege.

Nicola (Nick) Nero, 36, of Niagara Falls, Ont., was charged on Wednesday with the June 18 gangland hit on John Raposo at the Sicilian Sidewalk Café on College Street.

Raposo, 35, who was known as "Johnny Maserati" for his fondness for fine cars, was shot dead on a crowded patio while watching a European Cup soccer game.

"It's a brazen attack," Staff-Insp. Greg McLane, of the Toronto police, said on Wednesday. "It's an attack on the public's confidence and their safety."

At the time of the hit, Raposo was facing assault charges and Nero was already in prison in Kingston for his lead role in a massive drug-trafficking ring.

Four days after Raposo's murder, police arrested Stouffville ex-con Dean Michael Wiwchar, 26, and charged him with first-degree murder. Police allege Wiwchar was the triggerman in the homicide.

Toronto landlord Martino Caputo, 39, was also charged with plotting the Raposo hit, police said on Wednesday. Police said the victim was a former associate of both Caputo and Nero.

Caputo was arrested last week in Germany and is being held during extradition proceedings. He is also wanted by Niagara Regional Police on drug charges connected to Nero's drug ring.

Police said they are seeking another suspect — Rabih Alkhalil, 25, of no fixed address — in connection with the Raposo hit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fall of Nero?

- It's not the first time Nick Nero has been charged with plotting a major crime while in custody.
- Last May, he was charged with running a multi-million-dollar drug ring while serving a sentence for armoured-car theft and drug charges.
- Niagara Region police said Nero and his associates were allegedly bringing as much as 400 kilograms of cocaine weekly into Canada from Mexico.

A community with boundary issues

Ray Fischer, with his wife, Lauren, and children Sophie, 4, and Bryce, 18 months, at their home on Wednesday. Fischer and other neighbourhood parents have banded together to fight a decision to change boundaries at John Wanless Public School, located on Fairlawn Avenue in the Bedford Park district, to make room for full-day kindergarten. Go to metronews.ca for the full story. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Criminal, civil charges

York U exec used 'bogus degree'

York University says it has discovered that a controversial former executive — now facing criminal and civil fraud charges — submitted a "bogus degree" when it hired him in 2004.

The university paid Michael Markicevic more than $700,000 in a severance deal when it fired him "without cause" in 2010 as an investigation into possible fraud at the school deepened. York has also spent several hundred thousand dollars in a lawsuit against Markicevic and two dozen others for a scheme featuring scores of phony invoices. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dundas West station

Female suspect flees after stabbing

Police are investigating after a 25-year-old man was stabbed multiple times at Dundas West subway station. Police were called Wednesday afternoon. They say a female suspect fled before they arrived. The victim has been taken to hospital. THE CANADIAN PRESS/680 NEWS

Ont. legislature back to where it left off

Same old. Talks of gas plants and budget wrangling resume

What's old is new again at the Ontario legislature.

Business picked up Wednesday exactly where it left off four months ago when the legislature was shut down: finger-pointing over cancelled gas plants, budget wrangling and an increasing likelihood that very little will get done.

But Premier Kathleen Wynne clung to the hope that her minority Liberals can still find common ground with the opposition parties, even though the Tories have slammed her throne speech and the New Democrats have issued a budget ultimatum.

Even a resurrected contempt motion over the gas plants — the first order of business in the legislature — didn't change Wynne's tune.

Hit from the right

The PCs have said they won't support the throne speech and showed no sign of embracing a Liberal budget.

- "Mr. Hudak has to decide what his role is. My role is not only the oppositional role ... but it's also the role of putting forward ideas and putting pressure on them to actually get results for people," said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath

"The political parties are very important — obviously I'm part of the political process — but they are not the be-all and the end-all," she said.

"We are here because of the people who sent us here, and it's their concerns that we have to reflect, and their concerns are across the board."

The Liberal government will stay afloat for now because the NDP has agreed to vote in favour of the throne speech.

But NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said she'll withdraw that support if the spring budget doesn't meet her demands — which could trigger an election.

"The premier's got some fundamental choices that she has to make," she said.

"I've made it clear what I think the priorities of this province should be and what I think will help the average families in Ontario."

THE CANADIAN PRESS/WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Provincial NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has said she'll withdraw support if the spring budget doesn't meet her demands — which could trigger an election. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WOz up, Zach Braff?

Zach Braff stopped by MuchMusic on Wednesday to chat with New.Music.Live. host Scott Willats, left. The pair talked about the highly anticipated movie Oz The Great and Powerful, which opens March 8. COURTESY OF MUCHMUSIC

Markham arena will be built: Women's league

Markham hasn't approved an NHL-sized arena or its funding but the country's elite women's hockey league suggested Wednesday that the project will proceed.

The Canadian Women's Hockey League said the GTA Centre, the working name of the proposed $325-million arena, is sponsoring the group's annual awards night next month during the Clarkson Cup championship in Markham.

But the announcement left the impression that construction of the 20,000-seat arena in a public-private partnership will go ahead by describing GTA Centre as "the City of Markham's future multi-purpose sports and entertainment complex."

CWHL commissioner Brenda Andress said the league is aware that the project still needs council approval. "It wasn't meant to be misleading," Andress said about the arena's status.

Under the proposed deal, the city would borrow $325 million and a private-sector partner would pay back half of it over 20 years. The city would own the arena while partners would run it.

At a recent Markham council meeting, Andress applauded the work of Graeme Roustan, the chairman of GTA Sports and Entertainment, the private entity promoting the arena.

The project has generated opposition from groups who say the private sector should pay for the entire project. adding the arena will not be financially viable without an NHL tenant. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Councillor told mural painted by kids violates municipal code

Graffiti Panel. Coun. McMahon intends to appeal infringement of chapter 485

Don't City of Toronto graffiti inspection agents have bigger fish to fry than those swimming on Coun. Mary-Margaret McMahon's back fence?

Apparently not.

A mural of giant fish, small fish, a whale, and a bug-eyed crab and lobster — all depicted against a blue background — have grabbed the attention of the City of Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards branch. It sent two registered letters Tuesday to the Ward 32 — Beaches-East York — councillor and her husband, Jim McMahon, advising that they have objectionable graffiti on the alley-facing fence behind their house, in the area of Woodbine and Danforth Avenues. It's in violation of the Toronto Municipal Code, chapter 485, graffiti.

McMahon
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

They were told in the letters that they could appeal the ruling to the city's Graffiti Panel, which was set up last year and makes decisions on whether something is allowable "art" or prohibited graffiti. If the McMahons don't appeal, or get rid of the mural — which was crafted five or six years ago by the McMahons' children, along with a family friend who's an artist — it will be removed by the city and the costs added to the family's municipal tax bill.

They have until April 9 to comply or appeal.

McMahon said the notice "irks" her. She said she's been trying to get the city to crack down on people who may be failing to abide by various city regulations that protect trees. "We don't seem to have people for that, but we have resources for a mural in a back alleyway."

Toronto Coun. Mary-Margaret McMahon's children painted a mural on their back alley fence which has been targeted by city bylaw staff as graffiti. TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

McMahon intends to appeal the notice of violation to the city's Graffiti Panel. "We're not taking it down," she said.

McMahon's daughter, Becca, now 13, says she doesn't understand why anyone's objecting to the mural. She was eight years old when she and her brother, Liam, who's now 15, painted it, along with the family friend.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Graffiti

Art or vandalism?

According to a 2011 report to council, the city spends more than $1 million per year to clean up graffiti and enforce rules.

The city defines graffiti art as markings made to a property that are approved by the owner and which esthetically enhance the surface and the general surroundings, with regard to the character and standards of the community. Graffiti vandalism, on the other hand, includes markings made without a property owner's permission or which are not exempted or regularized by the city, or anything that incites hatred or violence or contains offensive language.

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Father Vito Marziliano gives Amanda Gray and her brother Jamal a white sheet to place over their mom's casket during the funeral service for Kimberley Watzl at St. Clare Catholic Church on Wednesday. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Funeral. Siblings say goodbye to mother

Amanda Gray's hands shook as she lifted the lid off a white basket, standing close to her brother Jamal in a frozen cemetery Wednesday morning.

A single dove poked its head out and looked around. After a few seconds, the bird stretched its wings and flew into the sky, disappearing from view.

"This dove represents Kimberley in her journey to heaven," said Amanda's boyfriend, Nick Cabrera, struggling to speak. "The flock of doves will represent all of you, to show that we are in this journey together."

The birds flew above the heads of friends and strangers gathered in Prospect Cemetery to remember Kimberley Watzl, a 41-year-old single mother who led a quiet, difficult life, but whose story touched the hearts of many in her dying days.

She lived on welfare and dealt with an abusive partner for years, all while sacrificing to provide for her kids. She succumbed to cervical cancer on Saturday, and Amanda, 20, now faces taking care of Jamal, 14, on her own.

But since Watzl wrote a letter to Torstar News Service, prompting a story about the family last month, readers have donated more than $30,000 to help them.

"Her legacy will be that letter," said friend Daralee Sheppard. "Can you imagine going through all that pain and suffering, and still doing everything you can to save your kids?" TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MGM makes its casino pitch online

Exhibition Place. Official website boasts of integrated resort's many benefits to city

The great casino debate is heating up online, where No Casino Toronto's grassroots lobbying efforts face competition from a slick new MGM Resorts website that says its facility would showcase "the soul of Toronto."

Las Vegas-based MGM and Toronto-based developer Cadillac Fairview promise thousands of jobs, $2 billion to $4 billion in investment and a stampede of tourists, on the website that was expected to be officially announced Wednesday along with an official Facebook page.

They say an integrated casino resort at Exhibition Place would include a luxury hotel, convention facilities, restaurants, nightlife, "best-in-class" shopping — and gambling in less than 10 per cent of the resort.

The site includes a tab to directly "share your thoughts with your local city councillor."

Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp.'s modernization plan includes one new privately built and operated casino in the GTA. Other companies eager to build in Toronto include Caesars Entertainment and Las Vegas Sands, but OLG says it won't force a casino on communities that don't want one.

In the other social-media corner is No Casino Toronto, which has used Facebook and Twitter to grow from three concerned women to a city-wide campaign against a downtown casino.

Mayor Rob Ford's executive is expected to vote on the casino question next month, but city council will have the final say, probably in April.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Claims on the MGM Resorts website:

- "Our hope is that Torontonians see the exciting possibilities that exist if we revitalize Exhibition Place and optimize its true potential as a year-round resort and entertainment destination."
- A Toronto Integrated Resort would be capable of generating 7,000 to 9,000 full-time permanent union and non-union jobs. Direct and spinoff jobs would generate $350 million to $500 million in new earnings for Toronto residents.
- MGM anticipates its non-executive Toronto casino employees would earn more than $60,000 per year in salaries, wages, benefits and tips.
- Positions may include: Graphic designers, housekeepers, architects, software engineers, sommeliers, hairstylists, auditors, financial analysts, gymnasts, electricians, carpenters, surveillance experts and seamstresses.
- A new integrated resort will be able to attract at least one million new visitors a year from outside Ontario who will spend $500 million to $1 billion on non-gaming activities.
- "Through the design, services and spectacles offered, guests at the integrated resort will experience the 'soul of Toronto.'"

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A ‘smiling and happy’ child, but she died in a prison cell

Ashley Smith’s early years. ‘You never saw that child without a smile on her face,’ her adoptive mother tells inquest

A homebody. An independent child who always had a smile on her face.

The adoptive mother of Ashley Smith painted this happy picture Wednesday of the troubled teenager who strangled herself in her prison cell.

“You never saw that girl without a smile on her face,” Coralee Smith testified at the Toronto inquest into Ashley’s death. “Most of her life, she was smiling and happy.”

Coroner’s counsel Marg Creal asked what Ashley liked.

“Oh my goodness, what did Ashley like? Quiet time and doing her own thing. She loved her doll,” Smith answered, her hands twisting a piece of paper. “Ashley was very independent.”

Ashley was 19 when she strangled herself in her cell at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener as guards, ordered not to intervene, watched.

She had spent most of her last three years in segregation cells.

Smith, of Moncton, N.B., described how she and her husband of two years, Harold, adopted Ashley as a three-day-old in 1988.

The relationship with Harold soon ended, and Smith got involved with Herb Gorber when Ashley was about three and a half years old.

Ashley became obsessed with knowing details of her parentage, Smith testified.

In Grade 9, Ashley was expelled for disruptive behaviour.

Ashley saw a psychiatrist. “She opined Ashley was just a normal teenager,” Smith said.

At the start of Smith’s evidence, presiding coroner Dr. John Carlisle expressed “heartfelt and sincere condolences” for her daughter’s death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

“I’m too fat and I have acne.”

Ashley Smith, talking after a session with a psychiatrist, according to Coralee Smith, her adoptive mother.

Coralee Smith, the adoptive mother of Ashley Smith, walks with lawyer Julian Falconer into the Toronto coroner’s court on Wednesday. The inquest heard that Ashley wanted to know about her adoptive father, but Smith said she didn’t have much information to give her. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grisly discovery

Woman’s body sparks mystery at infamous hotel

Police were trying to determine Wednesday if the death of a Canadian woman whose body was found wedged into a water tank atop a Los Angeles hotel was the result of foul play or an accident.

The body of 21-year-old Elisa Lam of Vancouver was discovered Tuesday at the downtown Cecil Hotel.

The hotel used to be the home of infamous serial killers, such as Richard Ramirez, known as the Night Stalker, and Austrian prison author Jack Unterweger, convicted of murdering nine prostitutes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A ‘bad law’

Judge sounds off on mandatory minimum terms

A mandatory minimum sentence enacted by the federal Conservatives that sees first offenders sent to prison for three years on a gun-possession crime is a “bad law,” one of Ontario’s most senior judges said Wednesday.

Appeal Court Justice David Doherty is one of five judges hearing six appeals involving mandatory minimum sentences.

The three-year mandatory minimum sentence for possessing a loaded prohibited gun was enacted in 2008 as part of the Tories’ omnibus crime bill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two groups complain

Tories accused of gagging federal scientists

The Conservative government is being accused of suppressing the release of scientific information.

The Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria and the ethics watchdog Democracy Watch are asking the federal information commissioner to investigate “systematic efforts” to obstruct access to government scientists.

The complaint arises from a sweeping Conservative communications policy under which federal scientists must get permission before speaking publicly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The question now is whether the troubled testimony will be enough to convince the chief magistrate to deny Oscar Pistorius bail. THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prosecution falters in Pistorius case

Murder charge. Police offer shaky testimony, admit forensic blunders

The prosecution case against Oscar Pistorius began to unravel Wednesday with revelations of a series of police blunders and the lead investigator's admission that authorities have no evidence challenging the Olympian's claim he killed his girlfriend accidentally.

Detective Hilton Botha misjudged distances and said testosterone — banned for professional athletes in some cases — was found at the scene, testimony the prosecution later withdrew, saying the substance was still being identified.

The second day of what was supposed to be a mere bail hearing resembled a full-blown trial for the 26-year-old double-amputee, with his lawyer, Barry Roux, tearing into Botha's testimony.

Police, Botha acknowledged, left a 9-mm slug from the barrage that killed Reeva Steenkamp inside a toilet and lost track of illegal ammunition found inside the house. And the detective himself walked through the crime scene without protective shoe covers, potentially contaminating the area.

Pistorius says he mistook Steenkamp for an intruder, while prosecutors say he planned the killing and attacked her as she cowered behind a locked bathroom door.

The day seemed to start well for the prosecution: ballistic evidence, Botha said, showed the bullets that killed her had been fired from a height, supporting the prosecution's assertion that Pistorius was wearing prosthetic legs when he took aim. The athlete has maintained he was standing on his stumps, and felt vulnerable as he fired from a low position.

Projecting a diagram of the bedroom and bathroom, prosecutor Gerrie Nel said it showed Pistorius had to walk past his bed to get to the bathroom and could not have done so without seeing that Steenkamp was not asleep.

Testimony began with the prosecutor telling the court that before the shooting, a neighbour heard "nonstop" shouting at Pistorius' home.

However, Botha later said under cross examination that the witness was in a house 600 yards away, possibly out of earshot. He cut that estimate in half when questioned again by the prosecutor.

Still, Botha offered potentially damaging details about Pistorius' past, saying the athlete was once involved in an accidental shooting at a restaurant in Johannesburg and asked someone else "to take the rap." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accusation

Authorities are selectively taking "every piece of evidence to try to extract the most possibly negative connotation and present it to the court."
Barry Roux, defence attorney

Reeva Steenkamp HANDOUT/COURTESY OF STIMULII/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Accused applied for more guns

Oscar Pistorius applied for firearm licences for six more guns weeks before the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

The applications were made Jan. 22, three weeks before Pistorius shot his girlfriend dead with a licensed 9-mm pistol.

In details obtained from the South African Police Service's National Firearms Center, Pistorius applied for licences for a Smith & Wesson model 500 revolver, a .38-calibre Smith & Wesson revolver, a Vector .223-calibre rifle and three shotguns: a Mossberg, a Maverick and a Winchester.

The details were provided by two officials at the government department. They refused to give their names because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Pistorius registered the handgun used in the killing for self-defence, the firearm centre officials said. The six outstanding applications listed those guns for his private collection. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quinoa craze putting stress on environment

Burden. Global demand for Bolivian 'super grain' impacting fragile Bolivian highlands

The growing global demand for quinoa by health-food enthusiasts isn't just raising prices for the Andean "super grain" and living standards among Bolivian farmers. Quinoa fever is running up against physical limits.

The scramble to grow more is prompting Bolivian farmers to abandon traditional land husbandry practices, endangering the fragile ecosystem of the arid highlands, agronomists say.

Quinoa currently fetches as much as $3,200 US a ton, up nearly threefold from five years ago — a surge fed by "foodies" making quinoa a hot health-food product based on its high content of protein and amino acids.

The United Nations has designated 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa, and Bolivian President Evo Morales planned to be at a special session of the world body in New York on Wednesday along with Peru's first lady, Nadine Heredia, to celebrate. Their countries are the world's two biggest producers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Timeless grain

- Quinoa has been cultivated in the Andean highlands since at least 3000 B.C., growing natively from Chile north to Colombia. It grows best at high altitudes in climates with cool days and even cooler nights.

Farmer Geronimo Blanco shows his quinoa plants in Patamanta, Bolivia, on Feb. 16. Blanco also grows potatoes, carrots and peas. A burgeoning global demand for quinoa is spurring new cultivation all across Bolivia's western highlands as prices for the Andean "super grain" soar. JUAN KARITA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cross-country concepts

Innovation in Canada can be traced back more than 150 years and many Canadian inventions are still in use today. You may be surprised at some of the innovations that put Canada on the map.

COMPILED BY METRO CALGARY

B.C./Alberta

Java
Java applets sound familiar? Calgary-born and educated James Gosling, along with partners Mike Sheridan and Patrick Naughton, brought us the now-widely-used computer language. Java, which first rolled out to the public in 1995, is a computer language that can run on various platforms without having to be reconfigured.

Insite
North America's only legal supervised injection site is considered by many to be a great social innovation. The controversial program operated by B.C.'s Health Ministry and located in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside provides a health-focused site for injection drug-use (heroin, cocaine, morphine). The clinic doesn't provide drugs, but helps administer addiction treatment, mental-health outreach and first aid to an area of the city with rampant drug use.

Atlantic Canada

Confederation Bridge
This 12.9-kilometre span linking P.E.I. and New Brunswick is a significant civil engineering innovation in Canadian history — allowing bridge building to be done over large bodies of water that freeze. The innovative design by Canadian company Straight Crossing Development Inc., protects the structure from the pressure of shifting ice packs.

Kerosene
More than 170 years ago, Abraham Gesner of Nova Scotia perfected the process for making kerosene, which fuelled lanterns and some heating units, and some of today's camping stoves. Unfortunately, because of conflict with a New Brunswick coal conglomerate, Gesner couldn't get financial backing for the product until he moved his business to Long Island, N.Y.

Prairies

Garbage bag
What is one man's trash is another's treasure. In 1950, Winnipeg engineer and industrial designer Harry Wasyluk and his partner Larry Hansen developed the first commercial disposable green garbage bag. The first bags were sold to the Winnipeg General Hospital. The invention was later purchased by Union Carbide, which brought us Glad garbage bags by the 1960s.

Air ambulance
Peace of mind in emergency situations was given a big boost in the mid-1940s, with the start of the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance Service. It was the first non-military, government-operated air ambulance service in the world to take flight. It allowed emergency crews access to remote areas to provide service where ground ambulance was unavailable. Air transport is now used as a regular emergency-services regimen around the world.

Central Canada

Instant replay
As Canadian as Saturday night hockey in our homes, so too is the instant replay we see on all the great goals. Hockey Night in Canada producer George Retzlaff first pioneered the slow-mo instant replay during a 1955 broadcast. The replay broadcast several minutes after the initial play.

Pablum
A staple in any home with toddlers, pablum, the cereal paste with all sorts of nutritional value, was developed at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children in 1930. The soft cereal, and others like it, is still widely used all over the world.

Canada Innovates

Part 2

Notice anything different? Part 2 of Metro's look at innovation in Canada is laid out with a vertical design. Not only does it enable a clean, sharp look at some of Canada's best ideas and the people who brought them to us, but it also serves a practical purpose.

The vertical layout is an idea born in the tight confines of mass transit, where you often bump elbows with your neighbour on the train or bus. Reading a paper this way can take up less space, in turn giving those around you more.

Do you like it? Send us an email at readers@metronews.ca or tweet @MetroNewsCanada with your thoughts.

Tomorrow, we punch in a few key words in our design as we look at past failures and innovative ideas for solving them.

Exclusively online

For more Canadian innovation and the full set of stories, visit our feature at metronews.ca/canadainvents

Patience, collaboration and perseverance: Four grass-root innovators come up with new solutions to old problems.

DARREN KRAUSE/METRO

4 Faces of Canadian innovation

Heather Young — Young Associates

ALLOWED UNORGANIZED GROUPS TO FOCUS MORE ON ART

At first, Heather Young didn't know much more about arts administration than the students she taught at Humber College in Toronto 20 years ago. But what she quickly learned in trying to teach sound fundamentals of arts management was that hard information on the topic was difficult to muster — let alone make available to budding artists and art groups. As good innovators often do, she saw a need and filled it. Young crafted her own materials, including Finance for the Arts in Canada, a textbook and reference guide to aid in running an arts organization. Her company, Young Associates — with a staff of 12 — now serves as a financial-management resource for 90 Toronto companies. She's soaked in years of knowledge working with arts groups in the city — something she believes is essential for innovation.

"Get to know your subject area as intimately as you possibly can," she said. "You need to know the upsides and downsides of what you're working on ... and in particular the gaps in the available supports."

Arts

Dr. Michael Montgomery — Kinetica

HELPED BUILDINGS STAND UP TO EXTREME WEATHER

Engineering

In his words, it's a simple application for a long-standing problem. Working on his PhD at the University of Toronto, Dr. Michael Montgomery was looking for ways to safely limit the vibration of buildings in earthquake and high-wind situations. Montgomery sought to replace stiff, mediocre-performing reinforced concrete with high-damping rubber in between steel plates throughout the structure of the building, effectively absorbing energy triggered by high winds or earthquakes. The technology has been used elsewhere, but never caught on in North America. Montgomery refined the configuration of an older system, which was initially retrofitted to an extent in the World Trade Centres back in the 70s, to come up with a new solution for modern buildings.

"One of the key things for this (innovation), was to be practical," said Montgomery, who is now CEO of the Toronto-based company Kinetica. "If you understand an industry very well, and you know what's currently lacking, it's a lot easier to develop something practical and meaningful."

Christine Causing — Edmonton Next Gen

HELPED GENERATE CREATIVE IDEAS THROUGH CONNECTING CREATIVE MINDS

Ideas are aplenty. But bringing like-minds together helps incubate those ideas and connect people with partners who can really make things happen.

That's the idea behind successful Pecha Kucha events like those held in Edmonton, under the leadership of Christine Causing, co-ordinator for Edmonton Next Gen.

Next Gen's mandate is to create "a hub for connecting people, places, community and ideas together," something Causing believes is essential for an idea to move forward.

"It's all about exposure for ideas," said Causing, who has helped steer 14 successful Pecha Kuchas since 2007, with a 15th slated for the first week of March. "It starts a whole conversation about an issue or an idea or even something city council should be doing."

Sometimes it's the planting of a seed, said Causing, sometimes it's a conversation, or awareness about something happening in the community. Creating a space where ideas and individuals collide stimulates further innovation. "It brings people together to share ideas," she said. "You can meet people who are directly involved in making things happen in the city." For more information, visit edmontonnextgen.ca.

Collaboration

Terry Bigsby — Aspenware

MADE CANADIAN MEALS MORE GREEN BY INTRODUCING ECO-FRIENDLY CUTLERY

For woodshop instructor-turned-entrepreneur Terry Bigsby, innovation was a long-term labour of love. In 1997, Bigsby saw the merit in a German wood cutlery product for its eco-friendly qualities, but got a rude awakening when he travelled to the Fatherland only to hear the $50 million price tag to import the technology to Canada. That's when he set to work on a made-in-Canada solution.

Multi-award-winning Aspenware's compostable, single-use wood cutlery is textbook innovation. Bigsby's team of 15 collaborated over the next decade to develop a worldwide patented process to produce biodegradeable wood cutlery faster, more efficiently and using source material typically not desired in the production of wood tools. He now produces cutlery 10 times faster than the German system he sought 15 years ago. Bigsby, president of the Vernon, B.C.-based company, said he could talk for hours on the lessons he's learned being a passionate innovator — from being ready for the "curve ball" to not being greedy. The one piece of advice he believes is most valuable for innovators is to see things through."It's the stick-to-itiveness," he said. "If you have an idea that has value and merit — stick to it." Visit aspenware.ca for more info.

Manufacturing

Recruitment

A look at Chinese unit accused of hacking

Unit 61398 of the People's Liberation Army has been recruiting computer experts for at least a decade. It has made no secret of details of community life such as badminton matches and kindergarten, but its apparent purpose became clear only when a U.S. Internet security firm accused it of conducting a massive hacking campaign against North American targets.

Hackers with the Chinese unit have been active for years, using online handles such as "UglyGorilla," Virginia-based firm Mandiant said in a report released Tuesday as the U.S. prepared to crack down on countries responsible for cyber-espionage. The Mandiant report, plus details collected by The Associated Press, depict a highly specialized community of Internet warriors working from a blocky white building in Shanghai:

RECRUITING THE SPIES

Unit 61398, alleged to be one of several hacking operations run by China's military, recruits directly from universities. It favours high computer expertise and English language skills. A notice dated 2003 on the Chinese Internet said the unit was seeking master's-degree students from Zhejiang University's College of Computer Science and Technology. It offered a scholarship, conditional on the student reporting for work at Unit 61398 after graduation.

CYBER-SPY WORKPLACE

Mandiant says it traced scores of cyber-attacks on U.S. defence and infrastructure companies to a neighbourhood in Shanghai's Pudong district that includes the 12-story building where Unit 61398 is known to be housed. The building has office space for up to 2,000 people. Mandiant estimates the number of personnel in the unit to be anywhere from hundreds to thousands. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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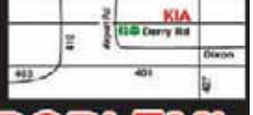

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Mandiant founder and CEO Kevin Mandia is seen in his office in Alexandria, Va., on Wednesday. JACQUELYN MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. to fight cyber-attacks with fines, trade actions

Chinese cyber-stealing. Obama administration is planning to use aggressive tactics to deal with issue: Officials

Evidence of an unrelenting campaign of cyber-stealing linked to the Chinese government is prompting the Obama administration to develop more aggressive responses to the theft of U.S. government data and corporate trade secrets.

A report being released Wednesday considers fines and other trade actions against China or any other country guilty of cyber-espionage. Officials familiar with the administration's plans spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the threatened action.

The Chinese government denies being involved in the cyber-attacks cited in a cyber-security firm's analysis of breaches that compromised more than 140 companies. On Wednesday, China's Defence Ministry called the report deeply flawed.

Mandiant, a Virginia-based cyber-security firm, released a torrent of details Monday that tied a secret Chinese military unit in Shanghai to years of cyber-attacks against U.S. companies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ongoing issue

An expert weighs in on the attacks.

- **Repercussions.** "If the Chinese government flew planes into our airspace, our planes would escort them away. If it happened two, three or four times, the president would be on the phone and there would be threats of retaliation," said Shawn Henry, former FBI executive assistant director. "This is happening thousands of times a day. There needs to be some definition of where the red line is and what the repercussions would be."

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Phone calls released in alleged plot to kill and castrate Justin Bieber

Grisly details. Phone calls contain tutorial on how to suffocate the pop star with a scarf

Newly released audio of phone calls made last November from a New Mexico prison is shedding new light on an alleged plot to murder teen pop star Justin Bieber.

Police say the calls were between Dana Martin, the 45-year-old prisoner accused of masterminding the plot, and one of the men he allegedly hired to carry out the gruesome plan.

In the tapes, Martin tells the nephew of a former jailhouse friend how to suffocate Bieber using a paisley scarf — apparently his signature move.

"Tie it really, really tight, knot it in the front once really tight, and put in a knot, and that cuts off the oxygen, and then tie it in the back again," Martin tells Tanner Ruane.

Justin Bieber
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"That just seals the deal," he adds.

In another clip, he asks Ruane whether his uncle, Mark Staake, has gone over "the Bieber thing" with him.

"Nah, the way I like to work, dude, the way I work — I like to know as little as possible," Ruane replies.

At another point in the call, however, he tells Martin they have bought hedge clippers, which police have said the would-be killers were to use to castrate Bieber, his bodyguard and two other men unconnected with the star.

Authorities say Martin, who is serving two life sentences in a New Mexico prison for the killing of a 15-year-old girl, told them he had hatched the scheme after Bieber never returned messages he sent to the 18-year-old singer.

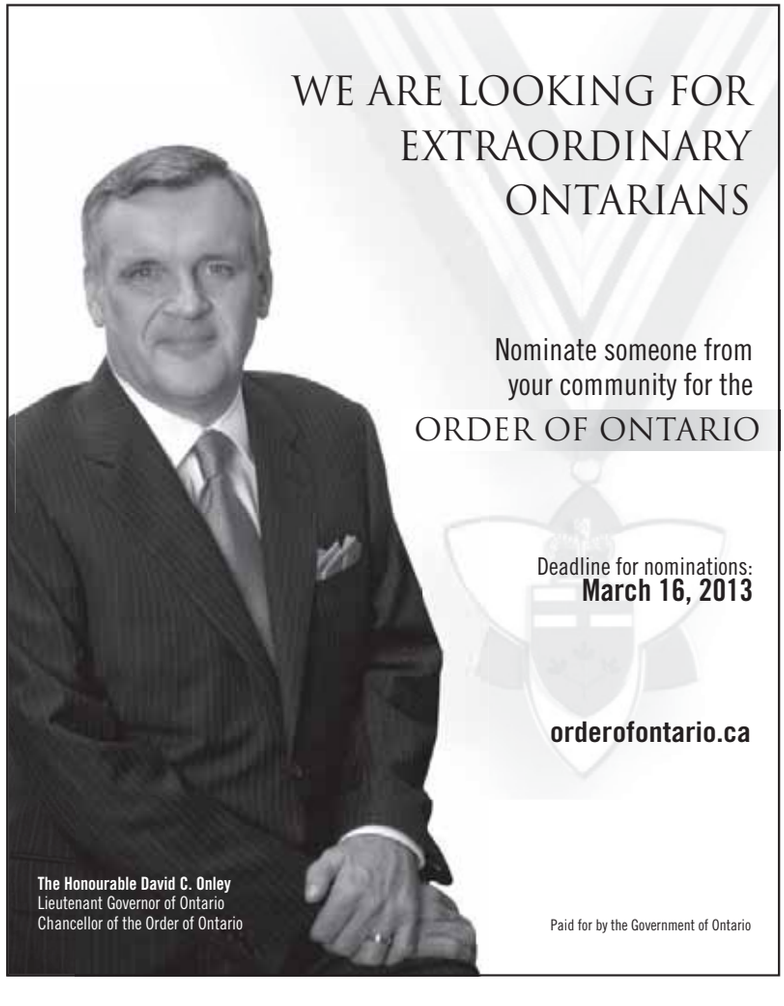
Police recounted in an affidavit filed late last year in a New Mexico court that Martin, who has a tattoo of Bieber on his leg, told them the perceived slight was part of what led him to dream up the alleged murder plot.

The promise of notoriety provided another incentive, police wrote in the affidavit.

The plan was derailed when the accused would-be assassins accidentally ended up at the Canadian border.

The U.S. border agent found Staake had an outstanding probation violation warrant from New Mexico and he was arrested.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Cows on the lam

A bull charges a snowmobiler who tried to wrangle it after the bull was let loose in order to try and attract a calf that escaped from Edmonton Custom Packers in Edmonton on Wednesday. The cattle caper began when a calf on its way to a slaughtering plant escaped from a pen and decided to make a run for it. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sask. man wants God out of the city

Human-rights complaint. Ashu Solo hopes to spark a national debate on public prayer

Saskatoon man Ashu Solo, known for filing a human-rights complaint against "Merry Christmas" electronic messages on city buses in December, is stirring the pot again.

This time, it's for a complaint filed to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (SHRC) earlier in 2012 about a Christian prayer said by a city councillor at a Saskatoon civic event. According to Solo, he received a notice of investigation from the SHRC on Tuesday.

Solo said if the complaint was found to be a violation of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, it could start a nationwide debate about prayer at municipal events.

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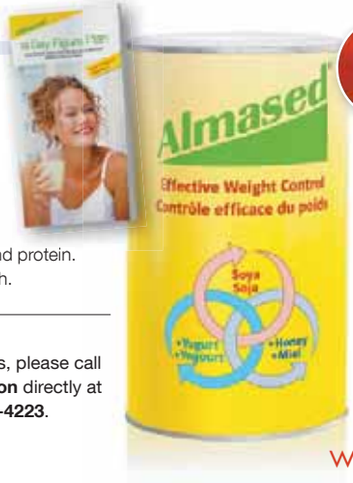

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Hear ye, hear ye. Scientists craft an ear using 3D printer and living cells

Printing out body parts? Cornell University researchers showed it's possible by creating a replacement ear using a 3D printer and injections of living cells.

The work reported Wednesday is a first step toward one day growing customized new ears for children born with malformed ones, or people who lose one to accident or disease.

It's part of the hot field of tissue regeneration, trying to regrow all kinds of body parts. Scientists hope using 3D printing technology might offer a speedier method with more lifelike results.

If it pans out, "this enables us to rapidly customize implants for whoever needs them," said Cornell biomedical engineer Lawrence Bonassar, who co-authored the research published online in the journal PLoS One.

This first-step work crafted a human-shaped ear that grew with cartilage from a cow, easier to obtain than human cartilage, especially the uniquely flexible kind that makes up ears. Study co-author Dr. Jason Spector of Weill Cornell Medical Center is working on the next step — how to cultivate enough of a child's remaining ear cartilage in the lab to grow an entirely new ear that could be implanted in the right spot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biomedical engineer Lawrence Bonassar holds the scaffolding for an ear his lab is creating using a 3-D printer. LINDSAY FRANCE/CORNELL UNIVERSITY/FILE

Jason Leigh, co-inventor of the CAVE2 virtual-reality system, poses with his 3D glasses. CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Futuristic shades

Virtual reality. 3D glasses could change the way doctors are trained and improve patient care: Inventor

Take a walk through a human brain? Fly over the surface of Mars? Computer scientists at the University of Illinois at Chicago are pushing science fiction closer to reality with a wrap-around virtual world where a researcher wearing 3D glasses can do all that and more.

In the system, known as CAVE2, an eight-foot-high screen encircles the viewer 320 degrees. A panorama of images springs from 72 stereoscopic liquid-crystal display panels, conveying a dizzying sense of being able to touch what's not really there.

"CAVEs are essentially fantastic lenses for bringing data into focus," said Jason Leigh, co-inventor of the CAVE2 virtual reality system.

Pharmaceutical researchers could use it to model the way new drugs bind to proteins in the human body. Car designers could virtually "drive" their new vehicle designs.

But the size and expense of room-based virtual-reality systems may prove insurmountable barriers to widespread use, said Henry Fuchs, a computer science professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who is familiar with the CAVE technology.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Racist parent

Black nurse not allowed to care for newborn: Suit

An African-American nurse claims a Michigan hospital agreed to a man's request that no black nurses care for his newborn.

Forty-nine-year-old Tonya Battle tells the Detroit Free Press she didn't know how to react when she learned about the request in October at Hurley Medical Center in Flint. Battle sued last month in Genesee Circuit Court seeking punitive damages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paganism in prison

Wiccan criminals have new hope for spiritual guidance

A U.S. federal appeals court has given new life to a decades-long battle by Wiccan inmates for access to a full-time chaplain. The California court overturned a trial judge's dismissal of a Wiccan prisoner lawsuit seeking the same rights as other religious practices.

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One in 4 Canadians are tablet owners

Usage trends. Survey finds we're most likely to use these 'mobile' devices at home

Tablet ownership in Canada has more than doubled in the space of a year, according to a Media Technology Monitor report.

CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

The iPad is still king; those addicted to their tablets read more news and watch more streaming video; and the popular gadgets are mostly used at home, even though they're often called "mobile" devices, says a new report that details how Canadians are adopting and using tablets.

According to the report by the Media Technology Monitor, a research product of the CBC, an estimated 26 per cent of the population had a tablet as of last fall. Tablet ownership had more than doubled in a year and was up from just five per cent in the spring of 2011.

Of the tablet owners, almost two-thirds had an iPad, while about 15 per cent each had purchased either a BlackBerry PlayBook or a Google Android device.

Owners of iPads were found to be the most enthusiastic about their purchase. While a vast majority of all tablet owners said they would definitely or probably recommend their device to family and friends (86 per cent), the numbers were even higher for those with an iPad, at 91 per cent. About 61 per cent of iPad owners said they would definitely recommend their tablet, compared to 44 per cent of other tablet owners.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homebody habits

82%

Tablets may be classified as mobile devices, but people largely use them at home. The survey found 82 per cent used tablets most around the house, compared to just eight per cent at work, two per cent at school or while travelling, and one per cent either in a coffee shop or restaurant, in the car, or on public transit.

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Consumers in denial. Keep taking our pennies — please?

Nearly three-quarters of Canadians want retailers to keep accepting the one-cent coin even though it's being phased out, says a new survey.

The Bank of Montreal poll found that 73 per cent of those surveyed expect retailers to keep taking pennies — regardless of the circumstance or amount of their purchase. And 59 per cent say small businesses should adjust their prices to benefit the consumer.

"Business owners are completely aware that they don't want to inconvenience customers; they want to maintain their relationships," said Joe Collura, a small business area manager with BMO in Toronto.

Retailers who decide to no longer accept pennies as part of cash payments will have to round up or down purchases to the nearest five cents. However, electronic transactions would still be registered in cents. The online survey was conducted by market research firm Pollara between Feb. 7 and 10 with a random sample of 1,400 adult Canadians. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retailers' choice

- The Royal Canadian Mint has officially ended its distribution of one-cent coins to Canada's financial institutions, but businesses can still accept the pieces as long as they choose.

Most Canadians think retailers still ought to accept pennies from customers, a new survey has found. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Market Minute

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Public health

Judge has yet to rule on N.Y.C.'s soft-drink ban

New York City's first-in-the-U.S. ban on large, sugary drinks will take effect in three weeks — unless a judge agrees with a challenge from beverage makers and sellers. A Manhattan state Supreme Court justice on Wednesday didn't immediately rule or say when he would. The large-drink ban that takes effect March 12 is the latest effort by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to fight obesity.
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E. coli found in Safeway burgers triggers cross-country recall

Health officials are investigating another massive cross-country beef recall after frozen burgers sold by Canada Safeway Ltd. tested positive for E. coli bacteria.

Several Safeway brand burgers are being examined, including Gourmet Meat Shoppe Big & Juicy Burger, Gourmet Meat Shoppe Prime Rib Burger and Butcher's Cut Beef Patties sold in packages of 10, 20 and 40.

The burgers were produced on one single day on Aug. 14, 2012 at the Cardinal Meat Specialists plant in Brampton, Ont., and have a best-before date of Aug. 14, 2013.

The plant will continue to operate during the investigation. Cardinal is the biggest meat producer in Canada, according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Positive tests

- The investigation was sparked after two people in Ontario and Manitoba became ill and tested positive for E. coli on Feb. 13.

"They've taken the precautionary action of recalling all the products produced on the line for that day and we're continuing to work with them in the investigation," said Paul Mayers, associate vice-president of programs at CFIA.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Transocean Discoverer Enterprise drillship burns off gas collected at the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in this June 25, 2010 file photo. A trial to determine BP's civil liability in the disaster is scheduled to get underway in New Orleans next week. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Settlement is elusive ahead of BP trial

Gulf of Mexico disaster. Months of negotiations have failed to resolve differences among 5 hard-hit coastal states

The U.S. Justice Department and the five Gulf Coast states affected by a massive oil spill nearly three years ago have indicated they would like to settle their environmental and economic claims with BP PLC ahead of a trial scheduled to start next week.

The problem is that they haven't been able to agree on the possible terms of such an agreement. Months of negotiations have failed to resolve lingering differences — not just with the London-based oil giant, but among themselves.

The Justice Department convened a meeting with Gulf Coast state officials in Washington late last week in an effort to hammer out an offer to resolve the outstanding civil claims, but an agreement wasn't reached, said a person familiar with the negotiations. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were confidential.

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley said reaching a settlement that satisfies all states' competing interests has been difficult. "We just want to make sure we get our fair share," he said. "We had more economic damage than probably any state because of the loss of all the tourism we had in 2010. So it's very important that the people of Alabama are compensated for the losses related to the oil spill."

An 11th-hour settlement still could be reached before the trial starts Monday, or even after it has begun.

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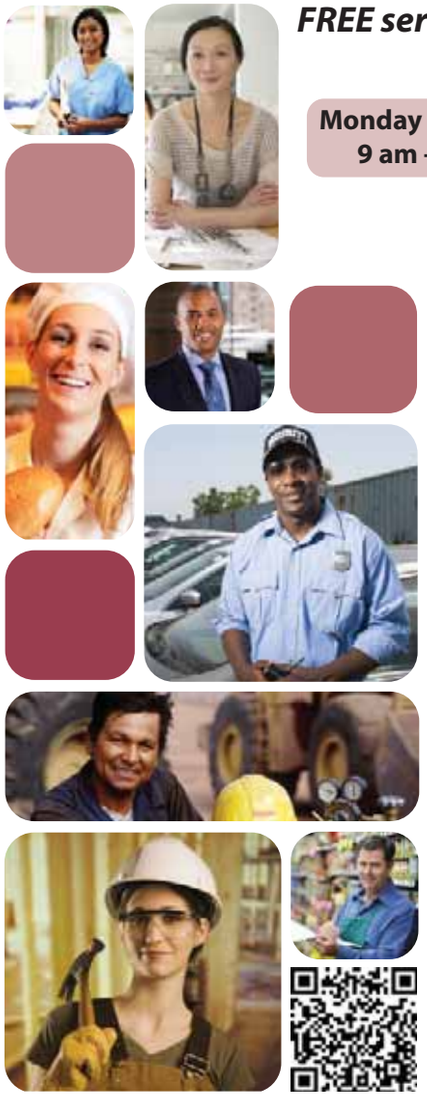

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A 'BOONE' FOR BACHELOR DECOR

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/voices/he-says

A friend recently visited my apartment for the first time. She made note of my bare, white walls, my mattress lying directly on the floor, my rooms devoid of paintings, plants or pillows and asked: "Oh, when did you move in?"

I paused: "Three years ago."

Her stare was as blank as the walls.

At first I was embarrassed. I thought to myself, "Self, you need to decorate your bathroom with more than a toothbrush. You need more than five spices to spice up your kitchen. In the living room, you need fewer pizza boxes and more pizzazz."

But I changed my mind when I looked online. Most decorating sites showed bachelor apartments that were attractive, yes, but were also huge, immaculately decorated and overlooking some cityscape or other. These were the kinds of places where you need to use a remote control just to reveal where the TV is hidden. Even inexplicably rich characters on New York-based sitcoms couldn't afford these places. These are, at minimum, lairs for Bond villains.

My embarrassment faded. My current apartment was just fine, thank you.

I still see the value of a nice apartment, mind you, but I think a few easy changes can make all the difference, as you'll see.

John's Tips for Bachelors for Decorating for Cheap for Dummies

How to add a touch of class

Empty wine bottles can look handsome in any living space ... a collection of Boone's Farm shows an under-the-shirt, over-the-bra touch of class that will impress guests who didn't even know you could make wine from mountain berries.

1) Empty wine bottles can look handsome in any living space. For instance, a collection of Boone's Farm shows an under-the-shirt, over-the-bra touch of class that will impress guests who didn't even know you could make wine from mountain berries.

2) Don't like the colour of your bathroom tile? Wait.

3) Savvy decorators use floating shelves to show off mementos, such as commemorative quarters or favourite Bazooka Joe comics. IMPORTANT: Please note that floating shelves do not float, despite the name. Some of us learned the hard way.

4) If you find an infestation of insects, remember that they add personality and much-needed hijinks, unless Disney and Pixar have been lying to us all these years, which seems unlikely.

5) A mirror will make your place look bigger to simpletons. Have guests over and leave them thinking you're twice as popular as you are, but don't let them wander off to the "party" in the "second living room."

6) Mirror not fooling you? Make your space seem bigger by getting wee furniture and whistling The Friendly Giant theme all day.

As you can see, making your bachelor pad a happy place is mostly about attitude.

The austere walls of my apartment are minimalist art, I've decided, an unadorned white canvas upon which you can project your great hopes (world peace) or your worst fears (ghost in a snowstorm).

Or perhaps it's a cultural critique of materialism — why do mattresses need elevation, really, except as a sign of our Western insecurities?

Or maybe it's cutting-edge fashion, with the cool, clean lines bringing to mind the futuristic esthetics of a Constitution-class starship. (Nothing says 'I'm a bachelor' like passing references to Star Trek technology.)

The real trick is seeing things in the right light. So if you still hate your place, wait till night, turn off all the lights, and pretend you live some place better.

And if you're still not happy, there's always Boone's.

Birds of the weather

CHINAFOTOPRESS/GETTY IMAGES

For all the snow in China

Guard's break shapes up nicely

This man took his eye off the bank he was minding to do something a little more creative. Security guard Du Jinqian made the most of recent wintry weather in Hangzhou, eastern China, and crafted some dainty birds out of snow. During a work break, he built over a dozen snow chickens and one snow goose on the steps of the bank.

METRO

Tallying winter's toll

60 cm

Heavy snow has fallen across eastern China, causing disruptions to airports and roads. Some 60 cm of snowfall led to the closure of Nanjing Lukou International Airport for more than 12 hours.

90

Ninety houses collapsed and 114 others were damaged due to heavy snow.

$13.38M

The resulting economic losses totalled $13.38 million, China Radio International reported.

Assembly required

At work: Fruit peels and a cocktail stick

To create his avian masterpieces, Jinqian used snow and ice collected from nearby parked cars. The guard added discarded bits of fruit and other food items to form the sculptures' eyes and beaks. Jinqian used what looked like a long wooden cocktail stick to provide the finishing touches to his handiwork. Passersby stopped to take photographs of the guard.

METRO

The Hangzhou of it

- **Wealth.** Capital of Zhejiang Province. With its fertile farmland, Zhejiang is China's wealthiest province.
- **Famous visitors.** Marco Polo described Hangzhou as "the greatest city which may be found in this world."
- **'Protestant' work ethic.** Reports claim Hangzhou's famed entrepreneurial spirit is due to the high number of Christians living there.

Metropolitan Panel

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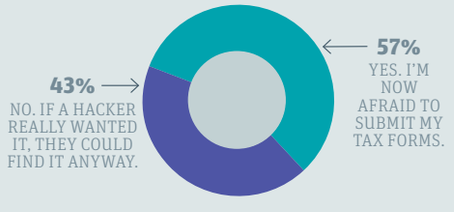

Twitter

@carlybeth1987: So I literally left #dundaswest station like 5 min before the stabbing.#crazy

@forsakenlove_3: who remembers the REAL "Harlem Shake" ? lol

@EvilKessel: Does Lindy Ruff know how to play in net? #leafnation

@iampadda: When Lindy Ruff got hired, Michael Jordan was still player for the Bulls. #Sabres

@debbyhoranx: *just won a Brit* *goes to McDonald's to get double cheese burger* Niall Horan, everybody.

@samiamm98: happy birthday to the legend that is kurt cobain. would have been 46 today. RIP.

metro

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Podcamp attendees follow along with a session on laptops and smartphones. This year marks the seventh year of the Toronto new media and web gathering. CONTRIBUTED

Feed your head at Podcamp

Skillsharing. Community-oriented "unconference" aims to share knowledge about blogs, social media, web platforms

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Technology activists will tell you that information wants to be free. But more often than not, access remains wrapped up with financial realities, which is what makes this weekend's Podcamp such a boon for tech experts and newbies.

Billed as an "unconference," this gathering of disparate web 2.0 interests is a by-the-people, for-the people event. And best of all, it's free.

"The idea is that it's really the community's event," explains Adam Weitner, Podcamp's community manager. And that philosophy extends to the dozens of sessions that form the conference's nucleus; all presenters volunteer their time and anyone can propose a talk.

"We generally attract the type of people that are a fit with the community, so it works out really well," says Weitner. "We're not the gatekeepers of knowledge."

As its name suggests, the original Podcamp, held in Boston back in 2006, focused on podcasts.

But as the conference expanded across North America, its content changed to reflect the growth of new media platforms like blogging and video. Social media, Weitner's area of expertise, is Podcamp's latest evolution.

The first Toronto camp took place in 2007. Weitner worked as a general volunteer in 2011, before joining the unpaid organizing committee last year.

"I was new to the city," he recalls. "Trying to meet people, get my face out there in the community, it's really good for that ... I took a lot away from my first one, so I knew that I wanted to be a part of it moving forward."

Financial success isn't the Podcamp organizers' end goal — sponsors help cover the conference's overhead. But presenters are certainly encouraged to flog their wares.

"It's more about the content and the knowledge," say Weitner. "But part of presenting is promotion."

Ultimately, they want everyone to get the most out of Podcamp. "You only get out of it what you put into it."

Podcamp runs Feb. 23 and 24 at Ryerson University, 80 Gould St. Learn more at podcamptoronto.com.

It's OK to browse

With Podcamp's open-door policy to presenters, there's bound to be varying degrees of quality. But Weitner says that what works for some won't necessarily work for others. "As long as the presenter is providing knowledge that isn't common, then it's great." And attendees are encouraged to use what he calls the law of two feet — if the session isn't working for you, use your two feet to move to one that does.

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Dark Skies hint at bright future for 13-year-old actor Dakota Goyo

Interview. Toronto teen gets to explore his interest in aliens in his most grown-up role yet

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

At 13, Dakota Goyo is already drawing designs on a career at an age when most other kids can't even decide whether or not to do their homework. In the case of Goyo however, that meant taking on a decidedly more "mature" role in the new thriller Dark Skies.

"Everything (I've done) is just like a normal boy and in this film, I'm sort of going into my teenage years and he's dealing with some tough stuff," said the Toronto actor recently during an interview to promote the psychological drama, which opens in theatres this Friday.

Dark Skies surprise

"(The film) sort of focuses on other characters in the story but then it turns toward me at the end. ... When I read the script, it was a shocking ending to me."
Dakota Goyo

"I wanted to push myself to the fullest extent I could."

He may still be in his teenage years but Goyo is quickly bolstering his filmmaking experience with such cinematic fare as Reel Steal, Thor and last year's Rise of the Guardians.

With Dark Skies however, Goyo is not only introducing himself to older moviegoers, but the scary tale about a family being targeted by beings from outer space allowed him to explore his own curious interests — extraterrestrials.

"I do (believe in them)," admitted Goyo before supplying a succinct argument. "There's billions of stars out there and stars belong to a galaxy. You'd think there's (something out there) besides us."

The film also explores that rationale but imagines such frightening and mysterious scenarios as peculiar lapses of memory and devilish, nighttime visits from the intrusive aliens — a premise that is certainly not without its own share of terror.

"I love scary movies," said Goyo, providing another simple argument for starring in Dark Skies.

"I watch them with my friends a lot and I like seeing my friends scream. They don't scare me that much but it's the feeling that it gives you — that butterfly (in your gut) feeling — I like that."

Keri Russell and Dakota Goyo star in Dark Skies. HANDOUT

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STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION

BRAVE THE 'COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR' WITH THE YONGE STREET MISSION

On Feb. 23, hundreds of Torontonians will strap on their boots to brave the "Coldest Night of the Year," affectionately called "The Walk."

The Walk is a non-competitive five-kilometre and 10-kilometre fundraiser. Participants register their teams and recruit members until Feb. 23, when all teams walk together supporting charities that battle homelessness in Toronto. Last year, 42 teams comprised of 337 walkers helped the Yonge Street Mission (YSM) raise just less than $100,000 to support Toronto's homeless.

By walking, families, friends, co-workers, students, and many other groups can collectively support one positive cause. And although most of us have never been homeless, we have all been hungry, cold, or hurting, which makes each step worthwhile.

During winter, charities that fight poverty struggle to accommodate for the homeless population in Canada. With the heightened need, this response is crucial to the lives of 33,000 homeless Canadians. Toronto has to play its part in ending Canadian homelessness and The Walk is a step in the right direction.

Now entering its third year, the goal for 2013 is $125,000. As walkers brave the cold, they will be welcomed with hot chocolate and chili from Starbucks Canada and Daniel et Daniel. By supporting the YSM, walkers can feel a sense of solidarity as the whole city helps struggling members of the community. Homelessness isn't just an issue for the homeless, it affects everybody and we have two options — stand still, or walk toward a solution.

Whether leading a team, joining a team, or donating online, your support of The Walk shows that homelessness has no home in Toronto. Community and anti-poverty advocate, Dr. Rick Tobias says, "A city has the amount of poverty that it is willing to tolerate."

On Feb. 23, join the YSM and let's show poverty that it isn't tolerated. For more, see ysm.ca/CNOY.

We heart you, Jonny Valentine

Believe. Satirical story of tween pop star loosely inspired by quintessential kiddie heartthrob

ALISON BOWEN
scene@metronews.ca

Meet Jonny Valentine: an 11-year-old pop star who worries about his "chub," hitting puberty and career longevity.

In The Love Song of Jonny Valentine, author Teddy Wayne gives us a sly peek behind the velvet rope of a young pop star.

Sort of inspired by Justin Bieber, the book delights in mocking an American society obsessed with nubile stars. But it also strikes serious chords, examining what that obsession does to the pint-sized pros themselves.

Some serious moments even eerily parallel Bieber news stories after Wayne wrote the book, like violent threats and a marijuana scandal. Wayne, 34, talked to Metro about prepping through celeb glossies and guitar strums.

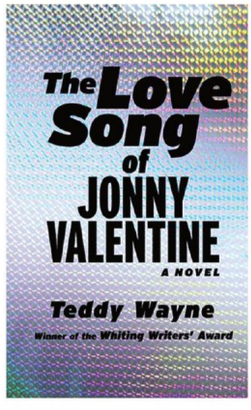
Never say never: Teddy Wayne originally wanted to write a parody of pop star autobiographies, sort of based on Bieber, but the final product was a more serious work than initially anticipated. GETTY IMAGES

The book is based on Justin Bieber. How many front-row Justin Bieber concert seats did you buy to research?

I ended up not going to any. I didn't want to be too beholden to the reality of Bieber concerts. I did watch his documentary film. It's entertaining, it's his own official documentary but he's savvier and smarter about his image than you'd think, than the normal teen pop star. I watched a lot of amateur (Youtube) concert footage.

How did you get the idea for the book?

There wasn't really a "eureka" moment. I'd been tutoring kids in Brooklyn once a week, and at the same time, I'd been working on a novel that was going nowhere. One time, I saw one of the girls reading Miley Cyrus' book, Miles to Go, and it must have landed in my subconscious because a week later, a friend asked if I had any ideas. I said, "How about we parody these teen pop star biographies?" An hour later, I realized if I treated this with more gravity it could make a more serious novel.



Writing as ventriloquism

On putting words into characters' mouths and hoisting kids up on a pedestal

Teddy Wayne had a general idea of where he wanted his novel to go, but was often surprised about what he came up with. He compares the writing process to ventriloquism.

"This novel and the previous novel are both in voices very unlike my own," he says. "I do a lot of humour writing for magazines and newspapers that's also 'ventriloquified.' ... When I get into another character's voice, I start thinking about this character, and it does lead me to their decisions and thoughts."

When asked for his thoughts on a society that creates idols out of 11-year-olds, Wayne is philosophical.

"We hold them up as these paragons of innocence. .... And then inevitably, they fail us, because it's impossible to stay innocent forever, and once they do we punish them severely," he says.

"We're cruel about it."

JOIN THOUSANDS DOWN CANADA'S MOST-FAMOUS STREET
"This was my first race and I loved it! It was faster than I thought it would be which was fun. The energy from the crowd motivated me to run as fast as I could. I loved the live music. I'll be back next year." Joe A.
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- **Talla Rejaei.** Exotic Persian beauty from Edmonton
- **Thomas Plant.** This Calgary firefighter loves to party

Big Brother, Canadian style

First time in the north. Contestants from across the country will move into the house later this month

The inaugural edition of Big Brother Canada will lean heavily on house guests in their 20s, including a 29-year-old tanning salon owner, a 27-year-old bartender and a 24-year-old dairy farmer.

Shaw Media says 15 house guests have been invited to move into a camera-rigged house for the first Canuck version of the global reality show smash.

Twelve of the 15 competitors are in their 20s, with the youngest a 20-year-old aspiring actress from Calgary and the oldest a 38-year-old insurance sales trainer from Halifax.

Arisa Cox will host Big Brother Canada. HANDOUT

Shaw says roughly 10,000 Canadians auditioned for a chance to compete for the grand prize of $100,000, a $25,000 gift card to The Brick and a Chevrolet Trax.

Big Brother Canada premieres Feb. 27 on Slice and will air three nights a week on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Big Brother Canada After Dark will also debut Feb. 27 on Slice. It airs seven days a week from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. ET/ 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. PT.

Beginning that same day, fans can also visit the website bigbrothercanada.ca to eavesdrop on the house guests through a 24-hour live feed.

Hosted by Arisa Cox, Big Brother Canada will pit house guests against one another in a series of challenges. They'll vote each other out each week until one claims victory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro News, Just For Laughs and Jeremy Hotz Want to Get you Out of Your Misery!

Jeremy Hotz

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Toronto portion of contest closes March 1, 2013. Open to Canadian residents 21 years or older. No purchase necessary. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries. Go to www.clubmetro.com to enter and fill out entry form, including skill-testing question. There is one (1) prize of a pair of front row tickets to the Jeremy Hotz Magical Misery Tour show in Toronto, presented by Just For Laughs. Winner in Toronto will be pooled with similar winners in Halifax, London, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver for the Grand Prize draw. There is one (1) Grand Prize of a trip for two to Just For Laughs Bermuda in January 2014, which includes return airfare, three nights of hotel accommodation at The Fairmont Southampton Bermuda and tickets to Just For Laughs Bermuda, valued at approximately $3,500 CAD (based upon departure from Halifax, actual value may vary depending upon time and city of departure). Certain restrictions may apply. For full contest rules, go to www.clubmetro.com.

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Man claims daughter is Spears' ghost singer on new album

Britney Spears is no stranger to charges that she lip-syncs during concerts and awards show performances, but now the former X Factor judge is accused of lip-syncing in the recording studio, according to Star magazine. "My daughter sings for Britney Spears," Murray Langston tells the magazine, claiming that his daughter, Myah Marie, sang seven songs for Spears on her Femme Fatale album — and was only paid $1,000 per song. "The truth is, Myah can sound just like her.

Britney Spears. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Alec Baldwin

Baldwin denies racist spiel against photog

Alec Baldwin is vehemently denying allegations that he peppered a paparazzo with racial epithets during a heated exchange outside his Manhattan apartment, according to E! News. A photographer working for the New York Post claims that Baldwin called him "a crackhead," "a coon" and "a drug dealer" during the altercation. "The claim of racist remarks is one of the most outrageous things I've heard in my life," Baldwin says. "I've certainly had my moments. But this is not one of them. I don't think I've ever uttered a racial epithet to someone in my lifetime."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

MAC and Rihanna team up

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Face it, this is Rihanna's moment. The pop star dazzled in Azzedine Alaia at the Grammys, made headlines with her controversial date, Chris Brown, and launched her first collection with U.K. high street retailer River Island during London Fashion Week. Yesterday — on her 25th birthday, no less — it was announced that she's teaming up with MAC cosmetics on four collections that will hit stores later this year. It's the first time the cosmetics giant will collaborate with one celebrity on multiple lines.

According to an exclusive interview with WWD, the first product up will be RiRi Woo, a lipstick inspired by MAC's best-selling red, Ruby Woo, Rihanna's favourite.

So how does the pop star feel about all the multitasking? "Being creative is something that I love, so I can put that into different outlets. Music happens to be the first thing that I gravitated to and now music opens doors to just so many different opportunities — they all tie in," she says. "My makeup looks, my fashion looks … they help me to express myself as an artist. I think it helps people to understand me or my mood, my story."

Did you hear that? Apply RiRi Woo and apparently you'll understand why she's still with Chris Brown.

Twitter

@TheRealRoseanne
givng my first interview to high times this week.

@Rosie
We Stanley steamed a carpet - and now the house smells like my Nanas toni home perm - from 1971

@Pink
Mary Poppins is f---ing incredible. Still. Julie Andrews dammit. You just made my lullabies look like a sad sad semi-hoarse karaoke sesh.

@AlbertBrooks
"Can't wait to see A Good Day to Die Hard" said the man who fell off a motorcycle and really hurt his brain.

Mila Kunis

Kunis game for a That '70s Show reunion

If Mila Kunis' current relationship with Ashton Kutcher didn't make it clear enough, the actress says that yes, she is up for a full-on That '70s Show reunion. "I'm more than game for it," she tells E! News. "I've said it before, I would love to do it. Why not? I loved it. It was eight years and they were eight amazing years of my life." The kitschy sitcom went off the air in 2006 after airing 200 episodes. Kunis and Kutcher continue to be the most successful members of the show's young cast.

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We recognize that both men and women experience androgenic alopecia (AGA, or male / female pattern baldness) and have made some improvements to the original formulation based on the latest science to address their specific needs. You will notice that we now have additional complementary (Health Canada Approved) health claims on each product.

How does Bio-Fen® PLUS work?

We are bringing you two new products with **double** the number of capsules and **triple** the number of health claims for men and **four times** the number of health claims for women.

As in the previous formulation, the fenugreek seed extract in both new formulas reduces excess blood lipid levels (hyperlipidemia). Fenugreek contains β-sitosterol, an active plant sterol, which has been shown to inhibit 5-alpha-reductase activity – the enzyme responsible for converting excess testosterone to *DHT* (which is the primary molecule that causes hair loss). The SDG (secoisolariciresinol diglucoside) from flax lignans in both formulas also decreases excess cholesterol - the building block of testosterone. Based on new research on the rate of metabolism of SDG in flax lignans (8-12 hours on average), the dosage in both products has been revised from once a day to twice a day for optimum results.

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Bio-Fen® Plus for Men:

As before, the saw palmetto extract inhibits the enzyme 5-alpha reductase, and this action slows down the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (or DHT) – the overabundance of which causes the miniaturization of hair follicles. This activity of the saw palmetto also helps to relieve the urinary symptoms of mild to moderate BPH for men.

The saw palmetto that originally was an extract standardized to 45% free fatty acids, esters, and sterols while the new formula is a 4:1 extract to support the BPH claim. The product still contains these molecules for hair loss, but they are now at proprietary amounts based on our research so that the competition cannot duplicate our formula.

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men will also help to:

- ***Relieve the urologic symptoms associated with mild to moderate benign prostatic hyperplasia - BPH** (e.g. weak urine flow, incomplete voiding, frequent daytime and night time urination).*
- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels / hyperlipidemia.***

Bio-Fen® Plus for Women

The women's formula is almost the same as the men's formula. The mechanisms and results for the women formula is the same. The only difference is it contains silicon and iron instead of saw palmetto. Silicon has been shown to contribute to hair shaft strength and thus healthy hair growth. It also contains iron which helps prevent iron deficiency. A number of studies have related sub-clinical iron deficiency in women to diffuse hair loss/alopecia.

The increased amount of SDG and other revisions to the regulations allow us to make some additional health claims for *Bio-Fen® Plus for Women.*

Bio-Fen® Plus for Women will also help to:

- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels/hyperlipidemia***
- ***Prevent iron deficiency.***
- ***Metabolize carbohydrates, fats and proteins.***

How long must I use Bio-Fen® Plus?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or the rate of hair loss is decreased. Anyone experiencing new growth should see it within four months. In some people the original pigmentation may come back. Once you stop completely your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started. However, some people may be able to go with a lower maintenance dose.

What is the quality of Bio-Fen® Plus for Men?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men is manufactured in Canada according to quality assurance specifications called Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and the finished product prior to sale.

Hair Grow Technology (Bio-Fen® Plus) is a progressive company - we continually seek out the latest research on bioactive ingredients, and on regulatory updates in the natural health products industry.

See our website to locate your nearest store that carries *Bio-Fen® Plus.*

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A model walks the runway at the Vivienne Westwood Red Label show during London Fashion Week Fall/Winter 2013/14 at the Saatchi Gallery on Sunday. IAN GAVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Welcome to the wild world of Westwood

Vivienne Westwood. The designer gives Metro a pre-show interview during London Fashion Week

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

Well, aren't London's galleries having a moment in London? Playing host are Tate Modern, Tate Britain and now the Saatchi Gallery in swanky Chelsea. The area is about as punk as Prince Charles these days, but it used to be home to Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren's "Sex" shop in the '70s.

I'm here to speak to Vivienne Westwood. Easier said than done, seeing as the PR reps have obviously taken tips from North Korea when it comes to media access. Ninety minutes pass by and the excitement amongst camera crews and reporters begins to wane (there are no chairs) and then she arrives. Has anyone been this excited to spend just a few minutes with a 71-year-old dame? I doubt it.

What kind of statement are you trying to make with this collection, particularly in relation to Julian Assange?
This collection's not got any strong political statement in itself — it's just here to help people look more attractive and more glamorous. I expect the message for the fashion is "quality is more important than quantity." Buy less, choose well, make it last.

Designer Vivienne Westwood wearing a Julian Assange T-shirt. IAN GAVAN/GETTY IMAGES

The other thing is, I always use my fashion as a platform to talk out against the problems we face, which are so urgent at the moment. The most important thing is public opinion, which makes politicians change — particularly the message about climate change.

Climate change is caused by the rotten financial system we've got and we can all see what it's doing now. It's making everybody poorer, it's making a few people richer and that's what this system is designed to do and it destroys the earth. And we will not get a different set of values and a better economic system unless we tackle our problems through climate change. What is good for the planet is good for the economy. That's my message.

Are you anti-capitalism?
I don't know. This is something we have to work out. I mean, for example, there's far too much manufacturing in the world of total rubbish. If we want money to circulate, you could pay people not to work, which we do anyway, or you could make more money by paying teachers, for example. And yet, we are cutting down on all those things so that we can continue our old way of doing things, which is to manufacture so a few people can cream off the profits, destroy the earth and destroy the livelihoods of everybody else in the world.

Juergen Teller's latest exhibition features nude images of you. Do you find nudity liberating?
Well, thank you for the question. The thing is, I've worked with Juergen quite a bit. I do a lot of things for other people and Juergen asked me and of course I owe him a favour. He's a great photographer and we've had wonderful results from his stuff. And I must say that I'm quite honoured by the photographs — they are alright.

Would you ever do an interview naked?
No, not unless … no, not even for Juergen. There's no point, is there?

To what extent is sex a factor in your work?
Well, my husband would love to have all the models naked just like the photographs of Helmut Newton. He just thinks they're amazing.

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Banana Republic

Mad Men meets Maple Leaf

Banana Republic's latest collection was inspired by the hit drama, Mad Men.

The third instalment of the retailer's popular collection channels style influences from Montreal native Megan Draper, portrayed by Montreal-born Jessica Pare.

The face of the new line also has a Canadian connection, with Toronto-born supermodel Coco Rocha featured in select images from the brand's marketing campaign.

The collection is designed by Banana Republic in collaboration with Janie Bryant, Emmy-winning costume designer for Mad Men.

The new line mirrors the mod vibe of the late 1960s, featuring a mix of bold prints and bright colours.

Silhouettes and style touches that are signature to the era — such as shift dresses, keyhole details and checked capris — are also included, with mirrored heel shoes, graphic scarves and geometric jewelry among the accessories in the collection.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Halifax

Tosan Ikomi,

Student

Age: 23

What she's wearing
Scarf from Ethiopia, Vagabond vintage coat, Guess jeans, Winner purse, Aldo boots.

Her inspiration
"I usually dress according to how I'm feeling, but this outfit was inspired by what a friend was wearing yesterday."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: MEGHAN TANSEY WHITTON, FASHIONEASTHALIFAX.COM

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@Jeanne_Beker: Poor Gus! Had to forego the park today cuz we're both slip slidin' away .....

@Michellehnilica: Dressed in style like his mom!

@kirstenreader: The cutest sad puppy face!

@totalburchmove: met @jeanne_beker today. new life goal: have a fraction of her genuinely wonderful self-possession for a fraction of a moment.

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Shoes displayed backstage at the Thom Browne Fall 2013 collection during Fashion Week in New York on Feb. 11.
LOUIS LANZANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From accessory to centre stage

Shoe Obsession. More avant-garde designers are taking on the feet

Shoes are having a 21st-century moment as they've pushed from mere accessory to the centre of the fashion stage.

Sexuality, social status, fashion IQ: The reasons for our shoe obsession are many, but one thing's for sure: more avant-garde designers are taking on the feet.

"There has been a big emphasis on high designer shoes in the past 10 to 12 years, so more women are certainly willing to spend more money on high-end shoes, but there's also been a real focus on shoes as art pieces," said Colleen Hill, assistant curator of accessories for The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

The museum went directly to the source — a who's who of shoe designers and some high-profile collectors — for Shoe Obsession, an exhibition that runs through April 13.

Outlandish heiress Daphne Guinness lent some of her favourites. So did jewelry designer Lynn Ban, who owns roughly 800 pairs and says, "I've worn them all, at least once."

The exhibition shows off 153 specimens, mostly from this century, including Ban's silver-platform Chanels with handguns for heels (they came with a warning against packing them in carry-on luggage when flying).

From the eerie, bone-white Exoskeleton made of resin and produced through 3D digital printing by Janina Alleyne to the disco-ballish silver sparklers without a heel by Giuseppe Zanotti, nary a style is left unrepresented by FIT.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new generation

Shoes by established designers and design houses — Manolo Blahnik, Salvatore Ferragamo, Roger Vivier, Chanel, Prada, Christian Louboutin — remain popular.

- But quirky stars have arisen as quickly as heels have gone so high that four inches is the new "low," the two curators said.
- The new design generation? Modernists Kei Kagami, with art pieces that take on an almost orthopedic terror, and Noritaka Tatehana, working in stamped leather, spikes and tall toe platforms absent a heel, stand out in a strong contingent from Japan.

Christian Louboutin

Shoe exhibition coming to Toronto

The designer best known for his iconic red-soled shoes is bringing his famous footwear to Toronto.

French luxury designer Christian Louboutin is slated to bring his retrospective exhibition to the Design Exchange beginning this summer. Canada will be the first stop on what is expected to be a global tour.

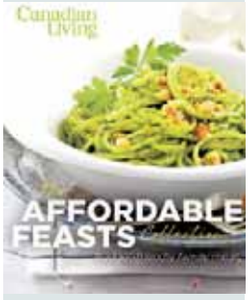
The exhibition earned record attendance at London's Design Museum and promises to offer an up-close look at Louboutin's inspirations and unique designs.

Initial sketches and raw materials are also set to be incorporated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

Eats that are easy on the wallet



When there's no room in your budget for luxuries, you can still eat like royalty, thanks to The Affordable Feasts Collection by The Canadian Living Test Kitchen. Each chapter of the book focuses on a specific type of ingredient that's always reasonably priced: Red Meat, White Meat; Eggs, Beans & Tofu; Pasta, Noodles & Rice and Hearty Vegetables. As a result, among the affordable delicacies are: Steak alla Pizzaiola, Pork Chops with Peppered Apples, Grilled Peanut Tofu Salad, Italian Stovetop Mac & Cheese, Sweet Potato Perogies and more. METRO

Savoury and saucy: Hunter's Chicken with Creamy Polenta

"Perfect for a cold night, this stew offers plenty of protein from the chicken and beans," write the editors of The Affordable Feasts Collection. "Polenta is the ultimate inexpensive side dish."

1. In nonstick skillet, heat 2 tsp of the oil over medium-high heat; brown chicken, about 8 minutes. Transfer to plate.

2. In same skillet, heat remaining oil over medium heat; cook onion, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add mushrooms and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, for 3 minutes.

3. Stir in chicken broth, tomatoes, beans, tomato paste, Italian herb seasoning, salt and chicken and any accumulated juices; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer until thickened, 15 minutes. Stir in parsley.

4. Polenta: Meanwhile, in saucepan, bring 6 cups water to boil. Whisk in cornmeal, salt and pepper; simmer over medium-low heat, stirring often, until thick and stiff to stir, 10 minutes. Stir in butter.

This recipe serves four. JEFF COULSON

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Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 8 boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut in 1-inch (2.5 cm) chunks
- 1 onion, chopped
- 8 oz (225 g) button mushrooms, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup sodium-reduced chicken broth
- 1 cup bottled strained tomatoes (passata)
- 1 can (19 oz/540 mL) white kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 tbsp tomato paste
- 2 tsp Italian herb seasoning
- Pinch salt
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley

Creamy Polenta

- 1 2/3 cups cornmeal
- 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed

RECIPES ON THIS PAGE EXCERPTED FROM CANADIAN LIVING THE AFFORDABLE FEASTS COLLECTION. COPYRIGHT

Side. Roasted Roots Salad

1. Trim tip off garlic and cut beets, carrots, sweet potatoes and celery root into 1-inch (2.5 cm) cubes; place in large bowl. Add oil, salt and pepper; toss to coat. Spread on large greased or foil lined rimmed baking sheet; roast in 425 F (220 C) oven, stirring once, until tender and potatoes are golden, 45 minutes.

2. Dressing: Squeeze roasted garlic pulp into salad bowl. Add mint, oil, vinegar and salt; mash together. Add vegetables; toss to coat. Serve hot.

Ingredients

- 1 head garlic
- 4 beets, peeled
- 4 carrots, peeled
- 2 sweet potatoes, peeled
- 1 celery root (or 4 potatoes), peeled
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp each salt and pepper

Dressing

- 1/4 cup chopped fresh mint (or 1 tsp dried)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 tsp salt

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Entertain indoors or out in style

Entertaining outside hasn't quite arrived in Canada, but checking out what's new in summer entertaining gear is making me pray harder for the warm weather to come as soon as it can. This spring, look for bright citrus or Moroccan colours, a variety of matte and glossy finishes and inventive design styles being offered with acrylic and melamine tabletop. Chic looking enough to use inside or out, but with a price that won't break the bank, there's no excuse for boring summer entertaining. Get into the stores and stock up on some fun outdoor party gear and host a pre-summer patio party indoors — a great way to test some summer cocktails in style.

KARL LOHNES
life@metronews.ca

Stackable beverage dispenser with ice keeper

Serve a variety of chilled, pre-mixed drinks with an acrylic portable beverage station this spring; a great item for outside, but think of its year-long conveniences next Christmas too. $80, thebay.com.

Clothespin Chopstick

Add some exotic, yet practical flair to your outdoor picnics with CB2's easy-to-use version of the chopstick. Yes, even grandma can now eat sushi. $5, cb2.com.

Rhode Acrylic Goblet

Modern and durable, smoke-coloured drinkware add a sophisticated statement to the outdoor table. $6.50, crateandbarrel.com.

Zak Orange Dinnerware

Bright citrus-coloured melamine dishes add a punch of satin colour to the table. $5 to $7 each, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

Zebag Wine Bottle Carry Case

Carry and display your wine in high style, this Zebag Wine Bottle Carry Case rolls out to display your wine. $70, thebay.com.

Viva Collection Tray

Exotically colourful trays add a punch of style to the table. $25, sears.ca.

What lurks in food dyes? Try making your own

How do I make my own food dyes?

QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

Artificial food colouring — found in a variety of pre-packaged foods and purchased in plastic bottles to make baking technicolour — has been a cause for concern since the 1970s.

Although the potential effects linked to food colouring include scary associations — brain cancer and thyroid tumours — one commonly cited critic is an allergy-like reaction that causes hyperactivity.

Recurrent adverse health effects in the U.S. shrunk the list of approved food dyes from 15 in 1938 to the seven that remain today and although they've recently called for more research in this area, for now, the FDA holds that the food dyes on the market are safe. Health Canada concurs.

But not everybody does. A 2007 British study found that healthy children who consumed a mixture of common synthetic dyes displayed hyperactive behaviour within an hour of consumption. In the U.K., foods containing artificial colours must now display warning labels.

Moreover, concerned individuals — especially parents — are taking action. The average kid-diet is loaded with food dyes, but the industry lacks in standardized labelling practices, leaving consumers to fend for themselves.

So what's a proactive citizen to do when occasions call for pink cupcakes? Some people are turning to organic foods, which by definition are free of synthetic dyes. Others are voicing their concerns to food manufacturers and elected officials.

Still others are taking a DIY approach and making their own food dyes. It's easier than you think.

Easter's around the corner and the pastel hues of spring are the perfect trying grounds for homemade food dyes, which generally have a less vibrant tone than their artificial counterparts.

Use these recipes to colour frosting or bake into a favourite treat. Because natural food dyes are less concentrated than synthetic dyes, you might need more colour than usual to achieve your desired tone. Reduce other wet ingredients slightly to avoid soggy results.

Regardless of colour, the steps are the same.

Method 1

In a pot combine any of the following colourful foods — chopped or grated — with just enough water to cover it. Bring to a boil for 15 minutes. Drain and cool. This results in a mild colour and almost no residual flavour.

Method 2

Juice or puree any of the following ingredients. This results in a more intense colour, and also a more intense flavour!

Red/pink: Beets, cranberries or raspberries (fresh or frozen), red zinger tea.

Yellow/orange: Carrots, onion, turmeric or saffron (Do not boil spices. Mix with water to make a thick past.)

Green: Spinach (puree it, don't cook it), matcha powder, liquid chlorophyll

Blue: Blueberries (fresh or frozen)

Purple: Red cabbage

There is still a debate about the health effects of FDA-approved food dyes. ISTOCK IMAGES

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Bathrooms: the space that deserve as much TLC as you do

Peace, love, bathe.
Those little extras count for so much more in the bathroom

Though creating an in-home oasis can be stressful, it will pay off with long relaxing bubble baths in your newly re-vamped getaway. Embrace you inner Matt Muenster, host of Bath Crashers, and create your dream bathroom with a few simple tips.

Bathrooms tend to have minimal storage space for those unsightly toiletries. Add wall shelving where you can to display your more attractive bathroom accessories as well as things you use daily (lotion, hair accessories).

If you are blessed with a larger washroom, consider adding a storage bench or cabinet. This can be customized to reflect your own stylish flare and create extra space for items such as towels and/or blankets.

Bathrooms are the room in your home that people use most, including guests, so why not incorporate some unconventional decor to set you apart. Wall art and paintings are an easy fix.

"Wall candy" is a new trend and an amazing way to bring in a modern and fun twist (most art stores and big-box stores carry these items). You simply peel off the art and stick it to your wall, Voila! Paintings are an effortless way to add personal taste to your bathroom.

You can also add some humour to the room with bathroom-themed art such as outhouses to inject personality.

The little extras count in the bathroom and can add big style points. Beautifully crafted candles, potpourri, and fresh cut flowers introduce natural scents that are inviting to those who enter.

Other decor items can include a small radio to play relaxing music while taking a bath, a heat lamp to keep things toasty while getting dressed (as well your cats will love you), his and hers towel racks (kids can have their own too), and bathroom themed knick-knacks for your newly installed shelves.

Refresh your colour scheme by buying new towels, rugs, bath mats, shower curtains and cloths.

When creating a modern washroom it's important to consider a mix of materials such as wood, glass and ceramic.

This will please all eyes and tastes in your home. You may even inspire bathroom visitors for their next home DIY project.

BATH CRASHERS AIRS WEDNESDAYS AT 10 ET/PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA.

Matt Muenster is host of DIY Network Canada's Bath Crashers. HANDOUT

Five reasons to buy a new condominium in the GTA

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

In Ontario, more than one million people are now living a condominium lifestyle and that number will continue to grow. The GTA is the fastest growing condominium market in North America, and here are five good reasons why:

Affordability and choice
Condominiums are still the most affordable path to home ownership in the GTA, with the average price of a high-rise suite nearly $200,000 less than the average low-rise home. The condo market in the GTA is also the most active in North America, so buyers have plenty of choice when it comes to finding their new home.

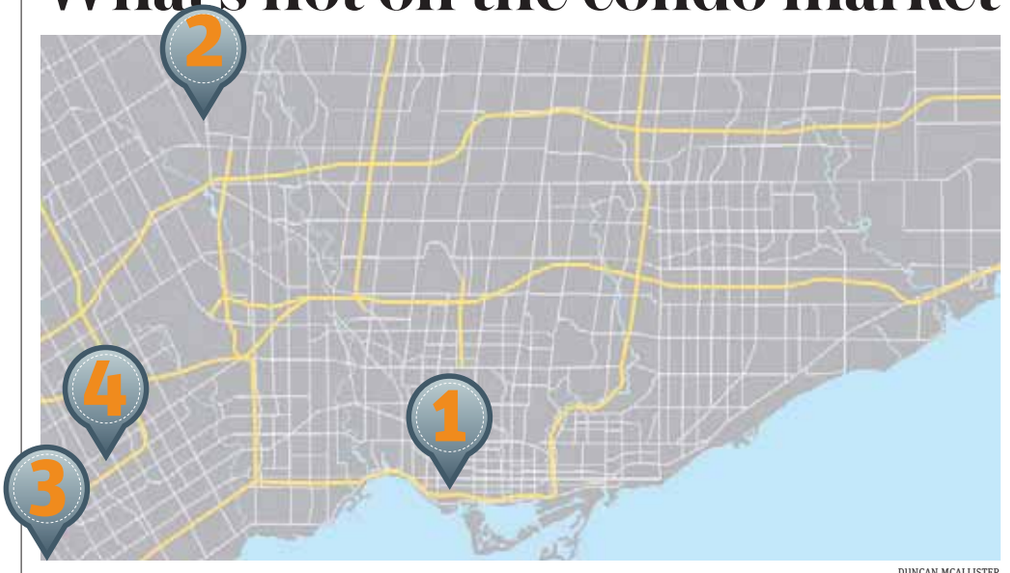
Quality of construction and designs
New condominiums are built using the latest construction techniques and attention to details to ensure solid, quality construction. Not only that, but high-rise communities in the GTA have received provincial, national and international recognition for its modern designs that combine function and style with open, inviting living areas, lots of light, well-planned work spaces and built-in convenience.

You choose the builder
When you buy a brand new home, you get to choose your builder based on their reputation and track record. Builders are proud of their work — they have the skills, experience and integrity to do the job right, and they are committed to your satisfaction. Savvy new home purchasers will know that buying a home from a BILD member also means their builder has complied with all requirements outlined in the BILD Code of Ethics.

Energy efficiency
All new condominiums are built in accordance with the Ontario Building Code, which was updated to include more energy efficient standards in 2012. Combine that with advanced construction techniques, higher levels of insulation and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, you not only save money on your energy bills, you also enjoy a far more comfortable home.

Built across the GTA
Provincial public policy is encouraging intensification and in many parts of the GTA the industry has adapted by building condominiums.

What's hot on the condo market



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. King West

Open House: DNA condo in trendy King West. 1 Shaw Street, Feb. 23-24 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-465-4545

2. Vaughan

Grand Opening: Impressions Kleinburg. Towns, semis and detached homes. New presentation centre at Huntington Rd and Major Mackenzie Dr. in Vaughan, Feb. 23, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: PARADISEHOMESCORP.COM

3. Oakville

New Release: Millstone on the Park in Oakville. Sales centre at 2480 Dundas St. W., Feb. 23 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 905-825-3619 OR VISIT MENKES.COM

4. Square One

Open House: New model suite at Limelight condominiums. 360 Square One Dr. in Mississauga, Feb. 23 from 12 to 3 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 905-306-6996 OR VISIT LIMELIGHTCONDOS.COM

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The Station condos: located at Wilson subway station

Like the name implies, The Station is next door to the subway. HANDOUT

Meet the condo

- **What.** The Station condominiums
- **Builder.** Brandy Lane Homes
- **Location.** 545 Wilson Ave.
- **Website.** thestationcondos.ca
- **Sizes.** From 994 to 1,292 square feet.
- **Pricing.** From $406,900 to $649,900

The project overview

A hot new condo that treats you like a star: fantastic value in the hot emerging Wilson Avenue-Allen Road area. Introducing The Station that has everything you love about life and living. The Station, as the name implies, is located right next door to the Wilson subway station.

Location and transit

Conveniently located at Allen Road and Wilson Avenue, The Station is 40 steps from the Wilson TTC subway station. Residents can be in downtown Toronto in less than 35 minutes, and commuters will enjoy the close proximity to Highway 401.

In the neighbourhood

World-class shopping across from Yorkdale Shopping Centre. There's nearby Downsview Park, Oakdale Golf Club and Black Creek Pioneer Village, numerous schools and a multitude of services, restaurants and shops along Wilson Avenue.

Building amenities

Featuring modern workout facilities, a steam room, a party room with bar and lounge, movie screening room and 24-hour concierge service. Each suite is appointed with either a loggia, sun terrace, balcony or French balcony, or a combination of these features.

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3.19%	TD	3.20%
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Restrictions make it tougher to stage your open house

Trends. Matter of security one of the reasons it's harder to open your condo for prospective buyers

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

Half of downtown condos have some sort of restriction on open houses, estimates David Flemming, realtor with Bosley Real Estate. ISTOCK IMAGES

In the condo market, it would seem like it's getting harder to stage a public showing of your suite. David Flemming is a Realtor with Bosley Real Estate and he sees a growing trend toward restrictions on open houses where nine years ago, it was pretty much a given.

He's been scuffled, had his signs torn up in front of him and unceremoniously kicked off the property. So Metro asks Flemming what the heck is going on?

"Today, I'd estimate that roughly half of downtown condos have some sort of restriction on open houses, or how they're conducted," Flemming says, adding that all places are different. "Every building has its own declaration and has its own rules and regulations and you can do whatever you want. You can have no policy or you could write a full-page policy and say no open houses, no advertising, no real estate signage."

Flemming maintains that 99 per cent of open house attendees are merely tire kickers and that condos aren't as "nosy" as houses.

"With houses, I find half of those people had nothing to do while they were out walking the dog," he says of the 300 or so people that attended a recent bungalow open house. "Half of them are just nosy neighbours." That's not to say open houses are not effective. "I've sold places off the open house. You'd be surprised how many people had just walked in, maybe they're casually looking," he says.

According to Flemming, "To not have a condo open house, whoever is on the Board of Directors making that rule, when they go to sell their property, then they'll wish they had the ability to put a giant sign out front advertising it."

Not everyone would agree. Some condo boards strictly forbid all nature of unsanctioned business conducted on building premises. It's a matter of security, says Flemming, but it's also a matter of ego.

"Some buildings prefer to consider themselves as upscale or luxurious or whatever word you want to use to describe it."

Shana Bahrami is a realtor with Right at Home Realty. She tells readers to be careful when staging a busy open house.

"They're unsupervised and you can't keep an eye on everybody. So remove your valuables; anything that has sentimental or monetary value."

Bahrami will use her own professional stager for open houses. "They take three to four hours and tell you what to put away, what to keep. They go through all your stuff and rearrange the whole house."

Oil tank adjustments

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

We have purchased a resale home and when we closed, our lawyer showed us the Statement of Adjustments and there was a $1,000 adjustment for fuel in the oil tank that we had to pay for.

This was not in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale and we were upset when we saw this charge against us. What should our response to this be?

It is standard for there to be an adjustment for oil tank fuel when you purchase a home with an existing oil tank.

The way it works is for the current owner to fill the tank immediately prior to the sale of the home and then transfer that cost to the purchaser.

When you looked at the home, one of the things you should always look at is the heating system. When you do this, you should be made aware by your realtor of how the transfer of ownership costs of an oil tank system work.

It may be an unexpected surprise, but you are not paying for something you are not getting. If you are planning on changing from oil to gas heating, you should always consult with your realtor and discuss if you want the tank filled on closing.

As an aside, you will need to consider removing the tank, which can be a very expensive option. Oil is an older method of heating your home but is still quite common in Canada.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website at cowanlaw.ca

Injured Maple Leafs forward Joffrey Lupul skated at an optional practice Wednesday but says he is still day to day. Lupul suffered a fractured forearm on a shot by teammate Dion Phaneuf on Jan. 23. JUSTIN K. ALLER/GETTY IMAGES

Leafs not rushing back Lupul, Reimer

NHL. Toronto's relatively successful start means more patient approach to injured forward, goalie

The cast is off and he's back skating but Joffrey Lupul isn't going to rush back into the Toronto Maple Leafs' lineup.

The veteran forward was among six players participating in an optional skate Wednesday at the club's practice facility. Lupul said it was his third time on skates since suffering a fractured forearm in Toronto's third game of the season.

He was originally expected to be out six to eight weeks. Lupul said while he has resumed skating — he worked mostly with skating consultant Barb Underhill and didn't take any shots — he has no timetable for his return.

"I've never had this injury before so it's kind of just day by day," Lupul said. "It's just nice to be back skating, it has been a while.

"I'm trying to get back to basics to make sure everything is going in the right direction."

Also on the ice Wednesday was goaltender James Reimer, who suffered a left-knee injury Feb. 11 against Philadelphia. Reimer skated and repeatedly went down into the butterfly without hesitation to handle shots but could also be seen hunched over at the waist, his head hanging down, between drills or during water breaks.

Reimer's body language certainly suggested his knee wasn't responding well to the workload. But the Leafs' starting goalie didn't speak to reporters about it afterward.

Lupul was hurt Jan. 23 in a 5-2 road win over Pittsburgh when hit by teammate Dion Phaneuf's shot on a power play while standing in front of the Penguins' net. The injury came days after Lupul signed a five-year, $26.25-million contract extension with Toronto.

"It was just bad luck, the puck hit me kind of in between some of my padding and got my arm," Lupul said. "If it's just a couple inches up it hits me in the elbow pad and everything is fine.

"Bad luck but what can you do? The team is playing great and giving me the opportunity to take care of this and make sure I come back 100 per cent."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Easier on the sidelines

Despite a 4-2 setback to Tampa Bay on Tuesday night, the Leafs (10-7-0) have enjoyed a solid start to the shortened season.

- Toronto's early success has allowed Lupul the luxury of time to ensure his injury is fully healed when he returns to the lineup.
- "It does make it easier to recover and make sure that everything is going at the right pace," he said. "There are times when if a team was struggling you'd kind of take it upon yourself to maybe hurry back and come back before you're truly ready."

NHL

Rough day for Ruff in Buffalo

Buffalo Sabres coach Lindy Ruff was fired on Wednesday after the team's latest slow start to the season and amid growing criticism from the team's fan base.

The announcement was made on the team's Twitter account and confirmed on Wednesday.

The Sabres (6-10-1) have gone 4-10-1 since opening the season winning their first two games.

In his 16th season in Buffalo, Ruff was the active leader among NHL coaches with the same team. Ron Rolston, who was coach of the Sabres' AHL Rochester affiliate, will finish out the season as Buffalo's interim coach. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Sabres fired head coach Lindy Ruff on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Cycling

Armstrong won't go under oath to reduce lifetime ban

Lance Armstrong will not interview under oath with the agency that exposed his doping and took his seven Tour de France titles.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency told Armstrong he would have to reveal all he knows about doping in cycling if he wanted to reduce his lifetime ban from sports.

After negotiating with the agency for two months, the disgraced cyclist refused.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SPORTCHEK

Lefty Loup vies for Jays bullpen spot

MLB. Pitcher with the 'funky' delivery was named last season's Jays rookie of the year

Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Aaron Loup throws at spring training Wednesday in Dunedin, Fla. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Asked about Aaron Loup's delivery, Jays pitching coach Pete Walker laughs before offering up "funky."

The Louisiana left-hander throws somewhere between side-armed and the normal overarm motion, releasing his ball about shoulder height. It's an effective style that has allowed the 25-year-old to skip Class-AAA ball altogether.

"Very, very difficult for left-handers to hit," said Walker. "It's no fun for a left-hander to stand in there. But he's equally effective against right-handers. So he's got a different delivery, unorthodox and one very difficult to pick up the ball."

"Hitters aren't used to seeing that," added manager John Gibbons. "Especially lefties. It's a different look and any time you can throw different looks out there, that gives you an advantage."

Add "sneaky fast" to the funky delivery. Loup threw consistently in the low 90s last season, with his fastball as high as 94 and 95 miles per hour.

Loup was called up midseason in 2012 from Class-AA ball in New Hampshire and went 0-2 in Toronto with a 2.64 ERA, 21 strikeouts and just two walks in 30 2/3 innings.

Quoted

"He's rare.... He really wasn't on the radar the year before and just blossomed last year."

Blue Jays pitching coach Pete Walker on left-handed pitcher Aaron Loup

The injuries that plagued the Jays' pitchers last year opened the door to the big leagues for Loup. And some earlier pitching refinements — dropping his delivery — helped him excel when he got there.

He made his debut at home to the Cleveland Indians on July 14, going two innings without giving up a hit despite some major-league nerves.

"It was awesome," he said.

Listed at five foot 11, Loup is the shortest of the 22 pitchers currently in camp. Next to six-foot-seven Josh Johnson, six-foot-six J.A. Happ or six-foot-five Steve Delabar, Loup is like the little brother just happy to be with the big boys.

Loup probably finds himself vying against Brett Cecil and Happ for a bullpen spot, depending on what role the Jays are looking to fill.

Gibbons sees Loup as a situational pitcher, brought in to take care of immediate business. Cecil can provide multiple innings while Happ is a starter who has been squeezed out by the additions of R.A. Dickey, Mark Buehrle and Johnson.

"How it best fits the team, how it all stacks up down there is really what it's going to come down to," Gibbons said of the battle to be the last leftie.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Champions League

AC Milan stuns Barcelona

AC Milan stunned Barcelona 2-0 in the first leg of its Champions League last-16 tie on Wednesday, beating the Spanish giant for the first time in eight matches.

Kevin-Prince Boateng and Sulley Muntari scored in a deserved win for Milan, which contained Barcelona's potent attack impressively, allowing it just two shots on target all match.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Depression battle

Marino stepping away from tennis

A loss of passion for professional tennis and a battle with depression prompted Canadian star Rebecca Marino to apply the brakes to her career for the second time in less than a year.

Marino, who said Wednesday she's receiving treatment for depression, said she no longer wants to live the isolated, nomadic life of a pro. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IOC decision fallout

Wrestling champ to return his gold

Top Bulgarian wrestler Valentin Yordanov has said he will return his Olympic gold medal to protest the IOC decision to drop wrestling from the Olympic program.

Yordanov, 53, announced his decision Wednesday to return his gold medal in his 52-kilogram freestyle category from the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	36	14	.720	—
New York	32	18	.640	4
Indiana	32	21	.604	5½
Brooklyn	32	22	.593	6
Chicago	31	22	.585	6½
Atlanta	29	22	.569	7½
Boston	28	25	.528	9½
Milwaukee	26	26	.500	11
Philadelphia	22	29	.431	14½
Toronto	**22**	**32**	**.407**	**16**
Detroit	21	34	.382	17½
Cleveland	16	37	.302	21½
Washington	15	37	.288	22
Orlando	15	38	.283	22½
Charlotte	13	40	.245	24½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	43	12	.782	—
Oklahoma City	39	14	.736	3
L.A. Clippers	39	17	.696	4½
Memphis	34	18	.654	7½
Denver	34	21	.618	9
Golden State	30	23	.566	12
Utah	31	24	.564	12
Houston	29	26	.527	14
Portland	25	29	.463	17½
L.A. Lakers	25	29	.463	17½
Dallas	23	29	.442	18½
Minnesota	19	31	.380	21½
New Orleans	19	35	.352	23½
Sacramento	19	36	.345	24
Phoenix	18	36	.333	24½

Note: division leaders ranked in top three positions regardless of winning percentage.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Memphis at **Toronto**
New York at Indiana
Detroit at Charlotte
New Orleans at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Brooklyn at Milwaukee
Oklahoma City at Houston
Miami at Atlanta
Orlando at Dallas
Boston at L.A. Lakers
Phoenix at Golden State

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 96 Washington 88
Charlotte 105 Orlando 92
Memphis 105 Detroit 91
Brooklyn 113 Milwaukee 111 (OT)
Chicago 96 New Orleans 87
Denver 97 Boston 90
Utah 115 Golden State 101
Phoenix 102 Portland 98
San Antonio 108 Sacramento 102

THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern

Miami at Chicago, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	16	11	5	0	52	38	22
New Jersey	16	9	3	4	42	38	22
NY Rangers	15	8	6	1	39	38	17
Philadelphia	17	7	9	1	45	49	15
NY Islanders	16	6	9	1	46	57	13

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	16	11	4	1	46	35	23
Boston	13	9	2	2	37	31	20
Toronto	17	10	7	0	48	40	20
Ottawa	17	9	6	2	40	32	20
Buffalo	17	6	10	1	47	56	13

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Carolina	14	8	5	1	41	40	17
Tampa Bay	15	8	6	1	59	47	17
Winnipeg	15	6	8	1	37	47	13
Florida	15	4	7	4	35	56	12
Washington	15	5	9	1	41	51	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	16	13	0	3	55	34	29
Nashville	17	8	4	5	39	38	21
St. Louis	16	9	6	1	53	50	19
Detroit	16	7	6	3	43	48	17
Columbus	16	4	10	2	36	51	10

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Vancouver	15	8	3	4	44	37	20
Minnesota	15	7	6	2	33	38	16
Edmonton	15	6	6	3	36	41	15
Colorado	14	6	7	1	37	43	13
Calgary	14	5	6	3	39	51	13

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	15	12	2	1	53	39	25
San Jose	15	8	4	3	39	34	19
Phoenix	16	8	6	2	44	41	18
Dallas	16	8	7	1	41	43	17
Los Angeles	14	6	6	2	33	37	14

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
St. Louis at Colorado
Los Angeles at Calgary

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 3 NY Rangers 1
Winnipeg 2 Buffalo 1
Ottawa 3 NY Islanders 1
Tampa Bay 4 Toronto 2
San Jose 2 St. Louis 1
Nashville 4 Detroit 3 (OT)
Chicago 4 Vancouver 3 (SO)
Los Angeles 3 Edmonton 1

THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern

Florida at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Carolina, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
NY Rangers at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Florida at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Nashville, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Vanek, Buf	12	13	25
Crosby, Phg	7	17	24
Stamkos, TBL	10	12	22
Kane, Chi	9	13	22
St. Louis, TBL	4	18	22
Zetterberg, Det	5	16	21
Tavares, NYI	11	9	20
Kunitz, Phg	6	13	19
Elias, NJ	4	15	19
Datsyuk, Det	8	10	18
Ribeiro, Wash	5	13	18
Malkin, Phg	3	15	18
Staal, Car	8	9	17
Moulson, NYI	7	10	17
Duchene, Col	6	11	17
Clarkson, NJ	10	6	16
Marleau, SJ	10	6	16
Lecavalier, TBL	6	10	16
Gagner, Edm	5	11	16
Thornton, SJ	4	12	16
Hall, Edm	3	13	16
Pominville, Buf	7	8	15
Toews, Chi	7	8	15
Hodgson, Buf	7	8	15
Kovalchuk, NJ	5	10	15
Sedin, Van	5	10	15
Steen, StL	4	11	15
Selanne, Ana	4	11	15
Purcell, TBL	4	11	15
Voracek, Phi	3	12	15

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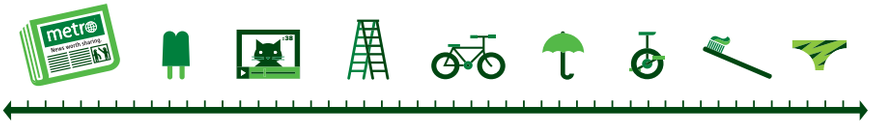

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Are you the forgiving sort? Probably not, but it will pay you to be a little less judgmental today, especially with people who are not as sharp-witted as you. Not everyone can be an Aries now, can they?

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
It would be nice if everyone was as honest and open as you, but they're not. So, take people as you find them and make allowances for those who fail to live up to your standards — that's just about everyone.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It will dawn on you today that some people don't want to be helped. So what's the problem? If others want to wallow in their own despair just let them. It's not really any of your business after all.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Let your imagination lead you in new directions today. As you think now so you will be later on, so give your mind permission to roam and don't worry that you may not accomplish much of a practical nature.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Put other people's needs ahead of your own today, even if you end up out of pocket. A few dollars here or there won't make much difference to you but it could make all the difference in the world to them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you have not yet reached your goals don't give up hope — and certainly don't blame it on other people. Be honest with yourself about where the blame lies and redouble your efforts over the next few days.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You have everything to look forward to and nothing to fear. No, really! Whatever the reason for your doubts and fears, you must not waver from the tasks you have set. Keep going. You're almost there.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Someone who fears or resents you will place obstacles in your path today and you would not be human if you did not feel a bit angry about it. But don't let your feelings show because that's what they are hoping.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Someone you love is finding it hard to make sense of their feelings. You, of course, have no such doubts and may be puzzled by their dilemma. Don't make fun of them though. They think it is deadly serious.

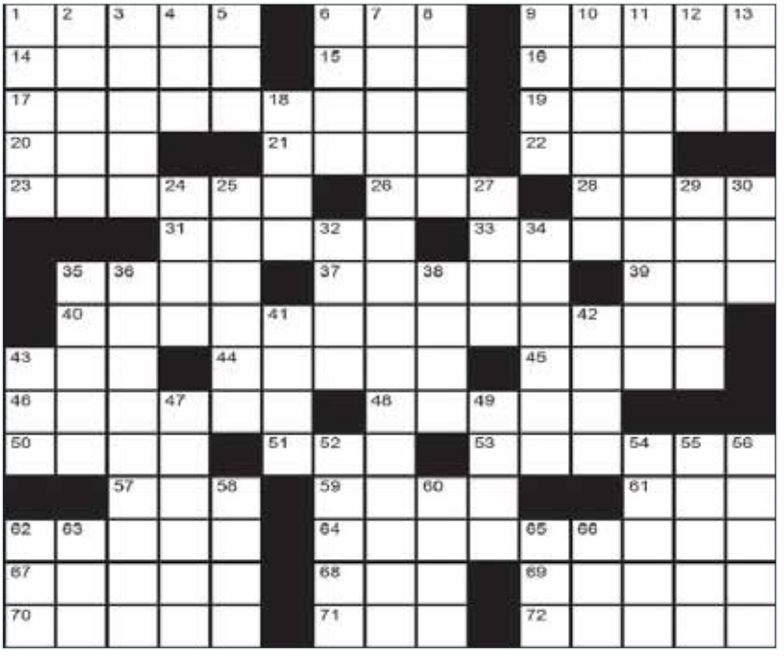
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You need to cut back on your commitments. According to the planets, you have taken on too many responsibilities of late — few of which are doing you good. It's time to be kind to yourself and ease off a bit.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
It might be best not to make any major decisions over the next 24 hours as the planets suggest you don't really know what you want. Leave it a couple of days and you are less likely to make a costly mistake.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Neptune in your sign is making even quite simple situations look complicated. Both at home and at work you must think and act as if everything is fine, even if the opposite appears to be true. It's all about attitude. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

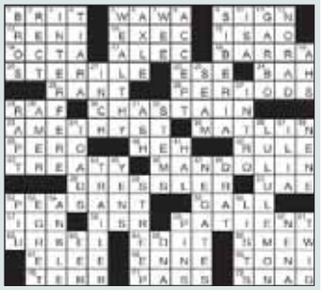
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Church members
6. "Survivor" network
9. Singer/guitarist Colin
14. Outer's opposite
15. Ad __ committee
16. Kind of clover
17. Movie company founded in Vancouver in 1997
19. "Your show's starting!": 2 wds.
20. Go from _ __ B
21. Once __ a time...
22. Geog. coordinate
23. __-14 dating
26. Marked the ballot's little square box
28. 'Prem' suffix (Movie's first showing)
31. Monday: French
33. Reflection giver
35. Kilt wearer
37. Caper
39. Writer Mr. Fleming
40. "Sweet Jane" band helmed by Margo Timmins: 2 wds.
43. Writer Mr. Capote, to pals
44. Map detail
45. "Meet Me __ __. Louis" (1944)
46. Rant
48. More sweet
50. Alphabet sequence
51. TV __
53. Goodies
57. Sequence, for short
59. Petty quarrel
61. Egg mass
62. "The __ a man's heart...": 2 wds.
64. Alberta's provincial bird, Great __ __
67. Oscar-winner Tatum
68. 'Carot' completer
69. "Wake Up Little __" by The Everly Brothers
70. Like a Viking
71. '60s hallucinogenic
72. MTV target audience

Down
1. Light purple flower
2. Rita Moreno's role in "West Side Story" (1961)
3. The Koh-_-__ Diamond
4. Five + Five's total
5. Decade divs.
6. Gent
7. They're used to smooth frown lines: 2 wds.
8. Vista
9. Prison
10. Aquila constellation's brightest star
11. Whodunits
12. __-friendly
13. Li'l Ottawa hockey player
18. Fashion mentor Tim of "Project Runway"
24. Setback
25. Win at the auction
27. Music key, _ __.
29. Jokes-filled celebrity tribute
30. 'North' suffix
32. "__ of Thunder" (1990)
34. More yucky
35. Theatre curtain fabric
36. Montreal Canadiens great, Yvan __
38. Ballerina's garb
41. Singles
42. Concerning, on a memo: 2 wds.
43. Final amt.
47. Really big veins
49. Talk to ya later, e-mail-style
52. Archie Comics character
54. Sprang up
55. Haul a car to the garage: 2 wds.
56. Tennis great Monica
58. Chiquita competitor
60. Wilma's hubby
62. Got the gold
63. 'Volc' ender (Lava spewer)
65. Approx.
66. "__ South"

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	7		3		4	6	9	
					5			8
2						1		3
	4		7			3	6	
				1				
	8	1			2		5	
5		7						6
6			5					
	3	9	4		1		7	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	4	9	8	3	2	5	7
2	3	9	6	5	7	4	1	8
5	8	7	4	2	1	9	6	3
7	2	5	3	6	8	1	4	9
3	9	6	1	4	5	7	8	2
4	1	8	2	7	9	6	3	5
9	5	1	7	3	4	8	2	6
8	7	2	5	1	6	3	9	4
6	4	3	8	9	2	5	7	1

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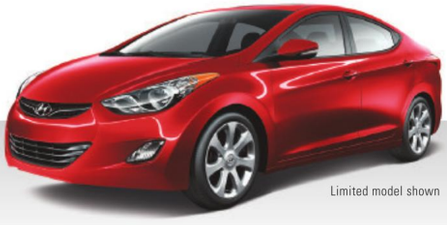

Limited model shown

2013 ELANTRA GT

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.8L/100 KM▼

OWN IT FOR **$108** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE: $19,680♦ ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION, FEES & $1,100 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS* INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

SE with Tech. shown

2013 BEST NEW SMALL CAR (OVER $21K)

GLS model shown

2013 ACCENT

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM▼

OWN IT FOR **$82** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

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Limited model shown

2013 TUCSON

HWY: 7.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.4L/100 KM▼

OWN IT FOR **$124** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0.99%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: iPOD®/USB/ MP3/AUXILIARY INPUT JACKS ▪ POWER HEATED EXTERIOR MIRRORS ▪ EZ LANE CHANGE ASSIST

SELLING PRICE: $21,895♦ TUCSON L 5-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

2013 CANADIAN UTILITY VEHICLE OF THE YEAR

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM▼

OWN IT FOR **$167** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **1.99%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

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